WORLD / A21
China growth exacting too high a toll, says president

BUSINESS / B1
OFW remittances jumped 10.6% in August

ENTERTAINMENT / E1
Dollywood: Aga Muhlach's newfound passion

LIFESTYLE / D4
Lifestyle approach to weight loss

Fearful faces get noticed first before smiling ones

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, October 16, 2005 44 Vol. 22 / No. 310

Bishop warns ex-priest on accepting Palace cash

By Beverly T. Mendrigal

Panlilio to Palace: Tell truth on money

GOVERNOR Panlilio points to women in Malolos rally

GOVERNOR Panlilio shows media the P500,000 he said was given to him after a Thursday meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang

More officials admit getting ₱500,000

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer General Luzon

DECLARING NO ONE COULD suppress the truth, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio yesterday showed on television the bundle of P500,000 he said he received in Malacañang, triggering similar admissions from another governor and a congresswoman.

Their decision to go public about the monetary handouts that Malacañang had used to downplay prompted calls in the Senate for an investigation to find out who was behind the handouts and if President Macapagal-Arroyo was involved. (See related story on this page.)

"It's very ensaid that Malacañang should confirm which particular office the funds came from," Panlilio said during a press conference in the City of San Fernando.

He said if subpoenaed by the Senate, he would appear and tell the truth.

Bulacan Gov. Josefina Dy and Rep. Rodolfo Antonino, Bonifacio Bosch, and Lorna Silverio also came out in the open to admit they had received money from Malacañang, amid Palace attempts to silence

PANLILIO A10

GMA men won't say where cash came from

By Michael Lim Ubac

AT LEAST P100 MILLION IN CASH WAS believed to have been given last week to members of the House of Representatives, governors and mayors in Malacañang, but no Palace official has acknowledged where the money came from.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, however, said the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), an umbrella organization of local officials, should do the explaining where the money came from.

"I don't know where the funds came from. That's an Ulap thing. Ulap has its own funds," Puno said.

Puno, who also serves as President Macapagal-Arroyo's political affairs adviser, said Ulap members—governors and mayors—stopped by Malacañang on Thursday to take their oath

GMA/MBA A10

IN THE KNOW

Charter requires receipts, vouchers in all gov't spending

By Cyril L. Bonabesa
Inquirer Research

THE 1987 PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION (Article IX, Section 2 under the subhead "Commission on Audit") states that no law shall be passed exempting any government entity or any investment of public funds from the jurisdiction of the Commission on Audit (COA).

Even the government's Contingent Fund, which is administered by the Office of the President, is subjected to auditing procedures. To make sure that every thing is accounted for,

CHARTER A10

Opposition in Senate, House demand inquiry

By Gil Cabacungan and Norman Bordadora

AN OPPOSITION SENATOR TESTIFIED formally called for an inquiry into allegations that Malacañang handed out bags filled with cash to congressmen and governors, even as another senator warned that President Macapagal-Arroyo could face bribery charges.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson filed a resolution seeking an investigation that would include other alleged bribery attempts uncovered in the past few weeks.

Those were the P200-million bribe supposedly offered by resigned Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos to Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri, and a payment of P1-million bribe to Rep. Crispin Beltran and other congressmen offered by a Kampi executive to support a supposedly "short" impeachment complaint against Mrs. Arroyo.

In Senate Resolution No. 171, Lacson said he "entered a clear prima facie case that alleged payoffs and bribery attempts between public officials had shown 'utter disregard' for the constitutional precept that a public office is a public trust.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Mr. Arroyo would be liable for bribery if the money supposedly distributed to congressmen and provincial governors after meetings at Malacañang on Thursday came from private sources.

She could be liable for malversation if the cash came from public funds, Pimentel said.

In a text message to the Inquirer, Pimentel said: "She's digging herself a

OPPOSITION A4-A5

IMMUNIZATION OF ANOTHER KIND
A student of Heatherr Schools' Love'ys, Manila, gets a free antimeasles shot on Monday. The Department of Health's "Knock Out, Tigdas" immunization drive coincides with the alleged attempt of lawmakers in Congress to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo against another impeachment case. (See story on Page 1.E)

SPECIAL REPORT

RP is forward operating base of US

By Herbert Docena
Special to Philippine Daily Inquirer

SINCE THE LATE 1990S, A CHORUS of American defense analysts, military officials, civilian leaders, and influential commentators have described the Philippines as playing a critical role in the US global posture. A succession of studies sponsored by different US military services have also singled out the Philippines for its strategic location.

The Project for the New American Century (PNAC), for example, had proposed that the US Navy establish a home port and that the US Air Force station a wing in the Philippines.

Another study for the US Air Force (USAF) noted the Philippines is located firmly within what US strategists have called the "dragon's lair," or those areas of the Western Pacific where China could potentially seek to prevent the United States from deploying

Another USAF-funded study to develop a "global access strategy" for the USAF proposed setting an Island Guam or Philippines for use as a military base.

A 2004 USAF-funded study reviewed

RP IS FORWARD A-11

Local group taps music in fight against poverty

By Joannatrix L. Andrade

IT IS NOT THE TYPE OF MUSIC THAT sticks in your head.

But it is a catchy that the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Philippines hopes will smolder a society that has become insensitive to poverties.

In launching the song "Poverty Re-

spirer" locally, GCAP Philippines aims to join the worldwide call to remember—the international day of Hunger and Poverty Eradication or the Whirlwind Day—to eliminate destitution through positive action.

"During every such poverty is not a matter of charity but self-advocacy,

LOCAL GROUP A-11

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Most region...

GMA revives campaign for Cha-cha, federalism

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Jovenir Aning

PRESIDENT ARROYO...

WHAT'S INSIDE

GMA DEFENDS RP rights record before forum of rights advocates /A5

POPULATION control focus of new House bill /A7

9M CHILDREN target of DOH drive vs measles /A10

New legislation

The President also stressed that she wanted new 'legislation to affirm and expand executive measures, and eventually charter changes."

The panel, tasked to draw up regional planning structures, would include the Secretaries of the Interior and Local Government, Justice, Presidential Management Staff, National Economic and Development Authority, leaders of local government units and congressmen of leaders.

"Maybe even pro-federalism opposition leaders" should join the panel, the President said.

Immediate fire

Arroyo's announcement drew immediate fire from militant opposition leaders.

Rafael Mariano of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas accused her of trying to divide the country to cover the many corruption issues now plaguing her administration.

The Cha-cha campaign of 2006, which took the form of a people's initiative to change the present bicameral presidential system to a parliamentary one...with an eye toward gradually shifting to federalism...was stopped by the Supreme Court as a "grand deception."

The high court ruled 6-5 that while a signature campaign could be used to amend provisions of the Charter, the proposed overhaul could only be done through a constitutional convention or through Congress acting as a constituent assembly. The latter method was shot down by the Senate.

The Palace had backed the Cha-cha campaign led by Speaker Jose de Venecia and officers of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap).

Militants' threat

Reacting to the revival of the Cha-cha campaign, militant groups threatened to mobilize anew for protest demonstrations.

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap, representing the Bohol bolt, said it was incongruous that why the Palace was currently repaired to be giving out bags of money to local officials.

Erwin surprised

"It is like President Arroyo saying, 'Congressmen, governors and local government officials, now you have your brown envelopes with you, it is time for me to say what I want you to do for me. Let's dance again the Cha-cha,'" he added.

The President's announcement had taken even Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita by surprise.

"This is the first time in many months that I heard the President say that," said Ermita who was with the President.

"When I was listening to her it seemed... that eventually we may move to federalism."

Confirmed

Ermita confirmed that moves to change the 1987 Constitution have not been abandoned by the Arroyo administration.

Among the proposed Charter changes being pushed by Malacañang are economic provisions lifting restrictions on foreign investments in mining and other natural resource-based industries.

The 1987 Constitution requires 60 percent Filipino ownership of firms engaged in the exploitation of natural resources. This provision, demanded in a recent Senate hearing, would be unconstitutional a new Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jepa) admin agreement (Jepa) admin opens fishing rights, among others, to Japanese companies.

Controversial

Controversial, too, are the transitory provisions in the Cha-cha draft that would extend the terms of local officials.

Opposition leaders last year feared they suspected that Mrs. Arroyo herself wanted to prolong her term beyond 2010.

TAKE THE NOOSE OUT

A member of a labor union holds a placard during an indignation rally earlier this at the Department of Labor and Employment in Intramuros, Manila, to condemn the violent dispersal of protesters last Oct. 10. The rallyists also urged new policies against contractualization of workers. AP/RAFFY...

GSIS waives penalties for nearly P1-B loans

By Jerry E. Esplanada

GOOD NEWS FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S public schoolteachers.

They are among the biggest beneficiaries of a nearly P1.6B loan...

The teachers and other Department of Education personnel...

Citing agency records, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said at least P928.2 million of the condoned surcharges came from member salary loans.

Another P311.4 million and P87 million in surcharges were in the form of emergency and one-month salary loans, Garcia also said.

He said the waiving of loan penalties or surcharges incurred in the past was the main feature of the GSIS's consolidated loan or "condo loan" program.

As of Oct. 1, at least 447,207 GSIS members had availed of the condo loan program.

Under the condo loan, GSIS members can avail of a new loan equivalent to up to 30 months of their basic salary.

To qualify for the condo loan, a loan applicant has to be an active GSIS member for at least 24 months.

Meanwhile, militant teachers' group...

Antonio Tinio, chair of the 15,000-strong Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), said nearly one year after the supposed deadline, "the department has submitted only 114,490 out of 908,261 service records."

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6,500 RP, US troops in 'Talon'

A TOTAL OF 6,500 FILIPINO and American soldiers are taking part in this year's annual joint training exercises "Talon Vision" and Amphibious Landing Exercise (Phiblex) from Oct. 15 to 31, the United States embassy here in Manila announced yesterday.

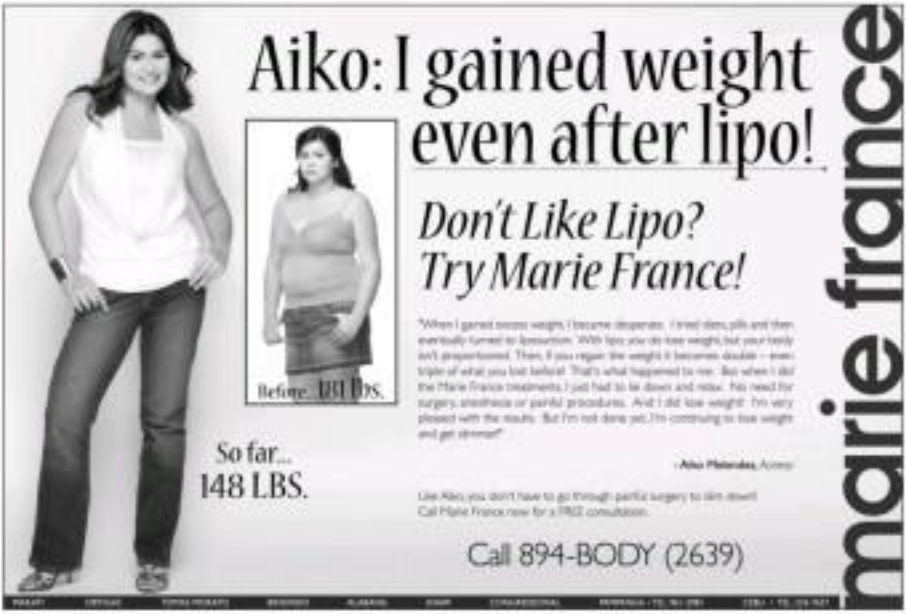
The exercises are designed to improve interoperability, increase readiness, and maximize professional relationships between the US and Philippine armed forces.

US Marines from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa, Japan and US sailors from the Essex Expeditionary Strike Group, Task Force 76 from Sasebo, Japan will participate in both ground-air and naval integration training with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

As part of the exercises, the soldiers will also continue community outreach projects as well as medical and dental missions in selected sites in the provinces of Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Cavite and Laguna.

Yesterday's opening ceremonies for the start of the exercises was held at the Officers Club Alumni Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Col. Alejandro Cayetano Jr., new commander of the 450th Air Base Wing, said this year's exercises will also showcase the capabilities of tilt jet planes and modern helicopters. Cecilio D. Balane



GOING BACK TO BASICS – THE KEY TO GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Philippines is on the verge of an unprecedented boom. The economy is growing at its strongest rate in 30 years. The stock market has reached its highest index ever. The peso has appreciated by 22 percent in the last three years. Investor confidence in the country is high and growing.

We have to sustain economic growth so that its benefits can filter down to the masses so that their basic needs are met: employment, enough food at reasonable prices, housing, cheaper medicines, better education, and greater access to health care.

OUR APPEAL

In this light, the ***Consumer and Oil Price Watch (COPW)*** seeks to summon the best in everyone of us IN GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, NGOS, THE RELIGIOUS, AND AMONG THE PEOPLE IN GENERAL. PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNANCE. HELP IN THE TASK OF FORGING UNITY. PUT THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY ABOVE SELF. GET BACK TO BASICS.

COPW appeals for a return to basics. To a time of governance when palabra de honor and integrity were the politicians' badge of honor. When transactions with government met the highest standards of transparency and accountability. When changes in government were characterized by predictability, peaceful transition of power, order, and our people's consent through a vote that was cast peacefully and counted honestly. When people participated in governance because they truly loved their country.

TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, A RETURN TO BASICS IS NOT AT ALL DIFFICULT. Just consider:

A NEED TO REVIEW THE CONSTITUTION AS IT PERTAINS TO FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Today, in Asia and other emerging economies, there is a race to attract foreign investments. And it is a fact that our neighbors are growing faster than us in this regard.

Foreign investments play a major role in the country's economic growth. Local funds and technology are insufficient to meet the enormous cost of infrastructure to make the economy competitive and provide jobs to support a growing population and a swelling mass of unemployed.

COPW believes that the Philippines can be more competitive if the rules governing foreign investments are more attractive. There is, probably therefore, a need to review the Constitution and its provisions affecting foreign investments.

Perhaps, we should revisit Constitutional provisions that ban foreigners from owning property even for industrial uses, and owning and participating in the development of minerals, marine and other resources.

There is a need to balance the urgency of meeting our needs through foreign participation in our economy and the demand for preserving the national patrimony for future generations of Filipinos. The two goals are not exactly in conflict nor mutually exclusive. They can meet halfway for the common good.

COPW proposes seeking a consensus on this issue through a public discussion of the merits of strengthening the economy through greater foreign investment participation while meeting the Constitutional mandates of giving priority to the Filipino and preserving the national patrimony.

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION – A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN GOOD GOVERNANCE

The constant presence of civilian organizations with their placards and loud voices in the streets create the impression that citizens' participation is practiced extensively in the Philippines.

There are today more than 150,000 civil-society organizations in the country. While they are allowed to voice their advocacies, are they really listened to? It is time to listen to them. ***They can help shape and influence economic, fiscal and social policies.*** After all, it is the citizenry that will be most affected by these.

TRANSPARENCY IS A BASIC VIRTUE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

We must discard selective transparency and half truths.
Let us be totally forthright about all aspects of proposed programs, policies and projects.

Nowhere is this more applicable than in the way we seek amendments to our Constitution, in the way we undertake and finance major projects, and, indeed, in our day to day dealings with our people.

PREDICTABILITY OF BASIC RULES AND REGULATIONS IS THE FOUNDATION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

Our actions must have predictability because they adhere to standards of fairness, transparency, and consistency of policy. Predictability guarantees a level playing field.

Economic and business policies cannot be changed overnight without warning. Investors do not like being kept in the dark.

ACCOUNTABILITY ENSURES GOOD GOVERNANCE

Today there is NO perceived system of monitoring programs and budget implementation.
Government officials, private individuals and organizations must be held accountable for their actions that shape and influence public policy that bears on economic and social development.

COPW APPEALS TO ALL SECTORS - GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND THE CITIZENRY TO UNITE AND STAY FOCUSED IN REBUILDING OUR ECONOMY.

NOW MORE THAN EVER, THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO IS WITHIN OUR GRASP.

LET US NOT LOSE CONFIDENCE AND FAITH IN OURSELVES AND OUR ABILITY TO EXERCISE GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR COUNTRY.

For online posting of COPW issues, log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COPW/

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HK rights activists due today, want update on slays

By Philip C. Tubeza
Correspondent

HONG KONG—HUMAN RIGHTS activists and journalists are set to arrive today in Manila to investigate what has happened to the cases of extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances in the Philippines.

Members of the Ground Hit Mission for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines will be in Manila until Oct. 22 and are hoping to meet with government officials, including Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

The fact-finding team includes Hong Kong democracy activist and legislator Leung Kwok-hung, known here as "Longhair," and members of media who will document the Filipino rights situation in the Philippines.

Current situation

"Once you allow the [first] mission, we would like to know what has happened. We would like to know what the government has done to resolve the killings that have become an international concern," said Bey Ann, a member of the team.

"The justice have given to the victims of human rights violations? Are the efforts of the Philippine government to resolve cases of extra-judicial killings and forced disappearances enough? What is the current situation and future of human rights in the Philippines?" he added.

The mission, organized by the 6th Campaign for the Advancement of Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines (HKCHRPP), first visited the country in July 2006 and found out an "appallingly real" situation of some of extra-judicial killings continuing to rise and enforced disappearances "slowly" cropping up.

Jackie Hung, project officer of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong and a member of the mission, said Dom Hubertus Jan paid for the expense to ask the Vatican to take a tougher stance against the extra-judicial killings.

Hung added that copies of their report were also submitted to Philippine diplomats based in Hong Kong.

"International and national pressure have been exerted and promises of the government have been made. Now is the time to confirm," they said.

He said they would meet with members of the Commission on Human Rights, the Philippine National Police's Task Force Usig, and the Public Attorney's Office.

Even more importantly, we don't want to talk families of victims of human rights violations to know what has been done to the cases of their loved ones and how they view their situation. We'll meet some of them we interviewed last year in July as well as families of more recent victims," Ann said.

The other members of the team include representatives from the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), Asian Monitor Resource Center (AMRC), Asian Centers for the Program of Peoples (ACPP), Asian Students Association (ASA), Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) and the Hong Kong Federation of Christian Students (HKFCS).

GMA: We don't tolerate human rights violations

By Michael Lim Ubac

INSISTING THAT THE COUNTRY was "the most democratic country in the region," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared now her administration's human rights record.

Speaking before human rights advocates during the "Regional Workshop on the Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions in Asia," Ms Arroyo said the government had "no tolerance for human rights violations of any kind."

"The Philippines is the most democratic country in the region. We have championed that human rights be included in our human [Association of Southeast Asian nations] charter," she said.

"My deputies are and all killings of political activists and journalists. I have not personally with the journalists community and the same with human rights activists. We share their outrage."

But the President wanted to "break the cycle once and for all" of political violence by those on the left and on the right.

She said this amid condemnation from the United States and European Union for the endless extrajudicial killings in the country, which have already claimed the lives of over 800 political activists, journalists and religious officials.

Present during the workshop at Trader's Hotel were Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Purificacion Quisumbing, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, United Nations representatives, members of the diplomatic corps and other CHR commissioners.

The Philippines is co-hosting the workshop which brings together representatives of 13 states from across the region, and representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR).

Invited to the workshop are member states which do not yet have established NHRIs in accordance with the "Paris Principles."

FOREIGN delegates to the Regional Workshop on the Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions hold at Trader's Hotel listen to the speech of President Macapagal-Arroyo (inset).

Militant farmers call for new land scheme

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER land reform was decreed throughout the archipelago, millions farmers preserving untamed calls for a radical solution to rural poverty—the distribution of land for free.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), marking the anniversary of Marcos' land reform program (Presidential Decree No. 27), said the government scheme has failed and a majority of Filipino farmers remained landless.

"What we promote most and truly need is free land distribution. Past experiences of this country in implementing several agrarian reform programs all failed because farmers could not pay the land," KMP chair Rafael Mariano said.

The group led the hermanitas last Oct. 10 of the People's Alliance for Genuine Agrarian Reform, an advocacy group that would draft a new land distribution bill to be presented to Congress next month to replace RD 27's successor, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program of 1988.

Mariano said they will propose that lands covered and to be covered by a new agrarian reform scheme be distributed for free and that past amortization payments under CARP be returned. —Jerome Aning

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Senate turns 91 today

Remains a bastion of independence

(1916 - 2007)

SENATORS of the 14th Congress led by Senate President Manny Villar. Seated from left are Senators Rodolfo G. Biazon, Pia S. Cayetano, Jinggoy E. Estrada, Miriam D. Santiago, Villar, Loren B. Legarda, Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. and Juan Ponce Enrile. Standing from left are Senators Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid, Richard "Dick" Gordon, Joker P. Arroyo, Edgardo J. Angara, Benigno S. Aquino III, Panfilo M. Lacson, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Gregorio B. Honasan II, Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero, Alan Peter Compañero S. Cayetano, Mar A. Roxas and M.A. Madrigal. Not in photo is Senator Antonio "Sony" F. Trillanes IV.

MESSAGES

MANNY VILLAR

MANNY: Congratulations to the officers and staff of the Senate of the Philippines as you celebrate your 91st Anniversary.

Together with the House of Representatives, the Senate is an important pillar of our bicameral legislature. It remains true to its constitutional mandate to enact laws that would ensure our country's stability and development.

My administration is firmly committed to the basic principle that government is a public trust. My duty respecting the separation of powers and the independence of the branches of government, my administration transforms public trust into a public demand for good and effective governance which is committed to deliver.

I am heartened that the Philippine Senate has been fully supportive of my administration's efforts to ensure a better future for our people. Truly the good relationship and support collaboration which you've walked the Senate halls and who have contributed immensely to the shaping of the nation would not exist if differently.

Again, congratulations to all for continuously performing your assistance with professionalism and a sense of duty. And may you always remain true to the Senate's noble tradition of promoting our people's and our nation's best interest.

Mabuhay!

JOSE DE VENECIA JR.

My warmest greetings to my fellow civil servants, the members and working staff of the Senate of the Philippines, as you celebrate the 91st anniversary of the venerable legislative body.

The Senate operates under the vision of Peace, as stated in the Latin inscription (Lege Servitium Pax) which means "Law Serves Peace. Let it be Done." This Latin maxim embodies the ideals and aspirations of the Senate to place relevant laws so that our country will attain peace.

In laws lasting peace, we must be built in our national institutions. We need to enact laws that will arrest corruption in government, and address the issue of widespread poverty so that these problems will not erode the very foundation of our democratic nation. We must improve moral standards in governance and society to create a strong foundation for good governance and true leaders. Lastly, I urge everyone to exemplify good leadership by promoting solid values, such as responsible work ethic and resolute liberty.

I extend our honorable Senators to continue to be steadfast in your worthwhile endeavors. Let us consolidate our efforts and work accordingly to achieve and maintain an efficient and responsive public service.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

My colleagues in the Senate, its hardworking officers and staff, my warmest greetings as you mark the 91st Anniversary of the institution in October 2007.

In behalf of the House of Representatives, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the distinguished men and women as you celebrate nine decades of crafting laws that respond to the needs of our time. These laws – as enacted under our two-chamber setup – have made Congress a major institution of reform and change.

The last 13th Congress had been the most trying for both the Senate and the House of Representatives. While we had different interpretation of our mandate to make laws, at the end of the day we were able to thresh out our differences and agree on vital and urgent legislation.

We are aware that we have to do more to make our country politically stable and economically prosperous. We have our priorities approved in the LEDAC – and we are guided by our vision of what the future should be for the nation. A dynamic legislature must lead to the future with confidence and audacity. It is also crucial that we learn from history so as not to repeat it.

The work in Congress is a relentless quest for a better future for the country and our people.

Mabuhay!

JOSE DE VENECIA JR.
Speaker, House of Representatives

CLOSE to a century ago, the opening of the "Philippine Autonomy Act" paved the way for the creation of a bicameral Philippine legislature with the Senate of the Philippines functioning as its upper chamber, and the House of Representatives as the lower chamber. Imbued with the determination and deliberation of national policies and the enactment of laws germane to national issues, the bicameral Congress, with the Senate at its helm, served the people magnificently. It championed the framing and the adoption of the 1935 Constitution, the founding of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, and ultimately the political independence of the Philippines.

Since its creation 91 years ago, the Senate has been consistently regarded as one of the guardians of the Philippine society. Throughout the numerous crucial turning points of Philippine history, the Senate has been continuously mandated in upholding its Constitutional mandate as a lawmaking body. But it has done so more as the conscience of the people, than where the power to pass into such mandate is derived.

U.S. President James Madison, Jr., considered to be the "Father of the Constitution," once said, "The aim of every political constitution is, or ought to be, first to obtain for rulers men who possess most wisdom to discern, and most virtue to pursue, the common good of the society, and in the next place, to take the most effectual precautions for keeping them virtuous whilst they continue to hold their public trust." I fervently hope that you, the wise and virtuous men and women of the Senate of the Philippines, continue to serve our nation and our people honorably and righteously, as your predecessors have done in the past century.

Congratulations on the occasion of your 91st anniversary.

Mabuhay kayo!

RENATO C. PUNO
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

Villar's vision for the Senate

SENATE President Manny Villar has assured that the Philippine Senate will maintain its "institutional independence, beholden to no political power but to the sovereignty of the Filipino people."

To attain his vision, the Senate President has asked his colleagues to rise above their political differences and re-examine the agenda of national development.

The Senate celebrates today, Oct. 16, its 91st anniversary.

"We must revisit the agenda of national development, identify the missing links and redirect our combined legislative wisdom to achieving a sustainable and equitable economic growth for all," said Villar, the 20th Senate President, at the opening of the 14th Congress last July.

Villar, who is also President of the Nacionalista Party, recognizes the fact that the Senate is composed of statesmen and women from a wide spectrum of diverse beliefs and ideologies, but united in the conviction to serve the Filipino people.

"We must seek to collaborate and find workable solutions under the guidance of a shared national vision," he said.

"Over the years, the Senate has been the subject of much criticism and doubt, leading many to conclude that it is best to abolish it. However, time and again, the Senate's crucial role in the balance of power among its co-equal branches of government is emphasized by the emergence of issues of national concern, that based on people we are nothing to run to but the Senate," Villar said.

He said a legislative body, like the Senate, is an effective instrument of check and balance in a republican and democratic government. He, he added, the grandeur of this purpose is lost to some who think that the Senate's role is one of unfailing negative criticism hindering to their obstructionism.

"On the contrary, the Senate exists to repair deficiencies and remove the very obstacles to national economic growth such as inefficiency, instability and corruption. The dynamics of democracy dictate that we cannot be a passive Senate. It calls for reforms, accountability and transparency," the Senate chief emphasized.

During his leadership, Villar has also asked his colleagues to rise above their political differences and re-examine the agenda of national development.

Senate President Manny Villar presides the session.

"We must revisit the agenda of national development, identify the missing links and redirect our combined legislative wisdom to achieving a sustainable and equitable economic growth for all," said Villar, the 20th Senate President, at the opening of the 14th Congress last July.

Villar, who is also President of the Nacionalista Party, recognizes the fact that the Senate is composed of statesmen and women from a wide spectrum of diverse beliefs and ideologies, but united in the conviction to serve the Filipino people.

"We must seek to collaborate and find workable solutions under the guidance of a shared national vision," he said.

"Over the years, the Senate has been the subject of much criticism and doubt, leading many to conclude that it is best to abolish it. However, time and again, the Senate's crucial role in the balance of power among its co-equal branches of government is emphasized by the emergence of issues of national concern, that based on people we are nothing to run to but the Senate," Villar said.

He said a legislative body, like the Senate, is an effective instrument of check and balance in a republican and democratic government. He, he added, the grandeur of this purpose is lost to some who think that the Senate's role is one of unfailing negative criticism hindering to their obstructionism.

"On the contrary, the Senate exists to repair deficiencies and remove the very obstacles to national economic growth such as inefficiency, instability and corruption. The dynamics of democracy dictate that we cannot be a passive Senate. It calls for reforms, accountability and transparency," the Senate chief emphasized.

During his leadership, Villar has also asked his colleagues to rise above their political differences and re-examine the agenda of national development.

The Senate celebrates today, Oct. 16, its 91st anniversary

Target: Population control

Increased budget for family planning eyed

By Christian V. Esguerra

WITH DELIBERATIONS ON THE 2008 national budget all but completed in the House of Representatives, the chair of the powerful committee on appropriations has shifted his attention to the contentious issue of population control.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman has revived a failed legislative measure in the 13th Congress that sought to address the supposed problems of ballooning population, partly in the control of national budgets and revenues.

Lagman's pet measure, House Bill No. 17, seeks a "national policy on reproductive health, responsible parenthood and population development."

Meeting Friday's discussions on the bill at the committee level, he said the lower house was poised to jack up to six times higher amount the current 39.66-million budget for the family planning program.

From the current proposed increase of 91 billion, the amount would up by another 195.66 million, he said.

"Definitely, it would be more than P1 billion," he told the lawyers on Sunday.

But Lagman said the Catholic Church and pro-life advocates should not be alarmed with the adjustment, insisting that the family planning program would embrace both natural and artificial methods.

Ejectment suit vs MIAA junked

THE COURT OF APPEALS DISMISSED an ejectment suit against the Manila International Airport Authority filed by private companies claiming ownership of a 7-hectare area in Bonifacio.

The court, however, did not rule on the ownership of the disputed property, saying this was the subject of another case.

The ejectment or unlawful detainer case was filed by Caridad and Alejandro Almeda, Bath Realty Corporation Inc. and Felix Ferino.

They claimed that the MIAA's lease on the land expired in 1990 and tried to oppose their ownership of the property by presenting a transfer certificate of title (TCT).

MIAA countered the case by presenting another TCT which showed that the property was owned by the Republic of the Philippines since 1981. Leila B. Salaverria

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 16, 2007
28th Week in Ordinary Time
Memorial Feast of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

1st reading: Rom 4:13-25
Gospel: Luke 11:37-41

As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to have a meal with him. So he went and sat at table. The Pharisee then wondered why Jesus did not first wash his hands before the meal. But the Lord said to him, "So then, you Pharisees, you clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside yourselves you are filled with greed and evil. You fools! Did not the maker of the outside also make the inside? But according to core, by the pure giving of alms everything is made clean for you!"

Commentary:

The gospel reveals the justice of God and God's call—revealing who is evil or perverse and who is not. God is clear in us now and as we welcome and see him reveal whether or not we remain in God or if we have deteriorated to a people that are not known to our Salvation. Do we treasure the glory of God that has been shared with us in baptism? Do we take it for granted? Or have we lived a life solely by the way we live out in our hearts with others and against others?

Jesus is invited to a Pharisee's house to dine. But Jesus does not pay heed to customary rituals (note: before eating). The Pharisee notices and Jesus knows that his host judges him harshly. The Pharisee is concerned with outward appearance while inwardly his heart (and soul) is disgustingly filled with uncleanness and evil. God knows—God sees—God searches both inside and outside. But if we wish to be made clean, we can give alms. Perhaps we need to look to ourselves, and the groups we belong to and see what else we must give in order to be made clean before our God.

Bonuan 'bangus' gets scarce in Pangasinan

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY— THE PRIZED Bonuan bangus may soon become a rarity here as only a few fishpond operators are growing it, according to city agriculturist Emma Molina.

"Our fishponds are now being used as transition ponds, meaning they are now used to grow bangus from tiny fingerlings for stocking in fish cages or fish pens," she said.

The Bonuan bangus—the tastiest among Pangasinan milkfish varieties—feeds on lablab (locally: blue algae), diatoms and plankton and are grown solely in ponds in Barangays Bonuan Gueset, Bonuan and Binloc.

It cannot grow heavier than 250 grams because of its dependence on natural food.

Compared to Pangasinan or Dagupan bangus, which are raised in fish pens and cages and subsist on formulated feeds, Bonuan bangus has a thinner arched belly, lanky fins and whitish shiny scales, shorter tail and smaller head.

During one of her visits here, President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted as being a "certified Bonuan bangus lover."

"It's delicious," she said, adding that even before she became President, she and her family would always drop by this city to eat the fish.

Of the more than 500 fish pond operators here, only about 100 are growing Bonuan bangus, Molina said, "and they are not even all focused in Bonuan. They are all over Dagupan and they are not doing it regularly."

She, however, said the milkfish variety raised in fish ponds elsewhere in the city had no "very significant" differences to cause with the Bonuan.

"Still, Bonuan bangus far bares a byword in the industry and we cannot also claim that those not grown in Bonuan are Bonuan bangus because we assume Bonuan bangus is the place of culture, which is Bonuan," she said.

Bangus growers have shifted to fish pens and cages because of bigger profit, Molina said.

If the fish is raised in ponds, profit is not maximized, she said. "This is because the rearing takes about six months or more. Besides, the growing medium, which is the water level, is fish ponds, is no longer that favorable."

"Except for some ponds that are located along the city's river system, where water exchange is not a problem, they can still go into growing bangus; but the profit is smaller, much less than when they grow it in the fish pens," she said.

A TEAM of Greenpeace "Water Patrol" activists called attention to the extent of pollution in Marikina River. Other rivers in the country are in a similar situation but calls for their preservation are largely unheeded. (photo/GP)

Fish cages seen pollution cause

DAGUPAN CITY— An environmental group has asked the government of Agno, Pangasinan, to remove the fish cages along the fast-stagnating River, saying these were "monstrous debt" with the river's classification, which is for recreation and navigation.

In a resolution passed, the Agno Environment Citizens for Ecologically Sustained and Sustainable Development (Aceseed) said the cages were also illegal because the town's one ordinance did not provide "any form of incentive for such activity."

Origins

Belonging to Visayan in and major river system that originates from the Zambales mountains and snakes through the towns of Mabini, Bautista and Aguilar, the Agno Environment Citizens for Ecologically Sustained and Sustainable Development (Aceseed) said the cages were also illegal because the town's one ordinance did not provide "any form of incentive for such activity."

Origins

Belonging to Visayan in and major river system that originates from the Zambales mountains and snakes through the towns of Mabini, Bautista and Aguilar, the Agno is dotted by huge mushroom-shaped bamboo houses known as the "Umbrella Racks."

"No activity that is incompatible with its declared classification and use must be allowed. Significantly, bangus (milkfish) cages must not be put in the river," Aceseed said in a position paper.

Fish feed

The document has been sent to Agno Mayor Arthur Celestino.

Aceseed said the use of fish feed in the cages will deprive water quality.

"The uneaten, stained feeds will also settle at the bottom of the river... causing pollution and reduction in water depth. Many of us are losing vitamins of flooding," Aceseed said.

"Once the river is polluted, re-assessment of flourishing can bring it back to its natural beauty," it said.

In a separate letter to Celestino, Lydia Calubaog, an Agnos official, said the fish cages should removed before the open season.

Open to investors

Calubaog said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has distributed mariculture pens in the Tobins, La Union, "and these areas are still open for investors."

As a recreation area, she said floating picnic sheds or cafe could be passed on the Balingasag River for visitors' use.

"Let us develop our town rather than destroy it," Calubaog said. She said the river's wealthy areas could also be developed for ecotourism and biodiversity conservation.

She cited a study that indicated that the world's smallest and biggest fish are found in Agno. "There are also environmentally rare in Agno," she said. Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

The mysteries around Pearl of Allah

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BAGOBOS POINT, PALAWAN— Gathering dust on the floor of an unkempt government office in this town is the shell of what is believed to be the world's largest pearl.

The Pearl of Allah or the Pearl of Lao Tzu, as the gem is now called, has been generally ignored by casual visitors used to seeing much bigger Hidden shells displayed in local restaurants as adornment or plumbing fixtures. Its history as a relic and prized treasure remains to be unearthed until properly told.

Local researchers claim to have documented narrative evidence to indicate that the pearl originated here in 1935 and was not handed to a foreigner as a gift, as generally viewed, but actually stashed away to be sold and saved return.

The gem is 9.4 inches long and weighs 14 pounds.

According to the Guinness' Book of World Records, the late Francisco Gen Laboratory values the pearl at $40 million.

Image in clam

The Muslim diver, who found the gem, said its surface bore the image of a turbaned face, and he named it the Pearl of Allah.

Rasil Quijano Jr., an engineer who also acts as the municipality's tourism officer, said his team have made researches on the history of the pearl and to have traced the descendants of Pangilina Pal, the tribal chieftain who gave the pearl to a certain William Dowell Cobb on May 7, 1934.

"There are now doubts on the accuracy of how the shell ended up with Mr. Cobb. He (Cobb) claimed that it was given to him for saving the life of his child from malaria," Quijano said.

"But Pangilina Pal's descendants are saying that it was actually given to him to be sold to a buyer. He just never came back," he said.

Descendant

George Pal, who claims to be a direct descendant of Pangilina Pal, possesses half of the shell where the Pearl of Allah was found. The other half was donated to the municipal government by a village official in Quing-ming where the pearl was reportedly found.

Last year, George was certified by the mayor as an authentic descendant of Pangilina Pal.

Quijano said that based on verbal accounts handed down by two generations of descendants, Pangilina Pal had asked Cobb to find a buyer for the pearl but the latter never returned to the village.

Reward

In his account published originally in the Natural History magazine in 1939, Cobb said a Muslim diver had drowned when his line was caught by the gem. Divers' pipe clam. When the body was brought to Pangilina Pal, the chieftain took possession of the diver's pearl and discovered the pearl inside.

Cobb said he first offer to buy the pearl from Pangilina Pal was turned down, but when he returned to the village in 1939, he came upon the chieftain's dying son and helped him recover from malaria using Western medicine.

As a reward, the tribal leader supposedly gave him the pearl.

Quijano said that while much of Cobb's account might be true, the descendants had claimed that in several instances, Pangilina Pal had gone to Batanes to try and sell the pearl.

Sold

Cobb brought the pearl back to the United States in 1938 and had it authenticated in the American Museum of Natural History.

After his death in 1960, Cobb's estate sold the pearl to a Victor M. Barbieh, a millionaire from Colorado Springs, who wanted to give it to his daughter Gina Marie Barbieh. Barbieh said the pearl is lodged in a Chinese bank vault and is secure of safe deposit boxes, and has repeatedly expressed his desire to turn it over to a museum.

An Associated Press story on the pearl in 2003 quoted Barbieh as saying: "It draws the wrong type of people."

Barbieh, who now wants his pearl out of the vault, was claimed to have entered an offer in 1999 from the world's top narcotic, Osama bin Laden, for $60 million, purportedly to give to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

He also claimed that an emissary of President Ferdinand Marcos offered to buy it, but the deal did not push through when the Philippine dictator was ousted from power in 1986.

Chinese legend

Based on Barbieh's accounts, a Chinese merchant, who is a descendant of the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, sold Barbieh the pearl and it is back to the Tzu dynasty.

Lao Tzu, the founder of Taoism, had reportedly wanted to spend his final years far from civilization. As he prepared to depart, he handed to a orphan a small amulet to be placed inside a clam, where it grew to become the Pearl of Lao Tzu.

Eventually, the legend continues, the pearl was lost in a shipwreck centuries ago, then found in 1934 by a diver who drowned when he reached into a huge clam to take it.

Only this year, a Colorado jury awarded a $34.4 million share on the pearl to the heirs of a woman whose husband, her owner the Dowells, was linked in her murder in 1975.

His children now reportedly want the pearl sold as they can be paid the settlement they won against their father's estate.

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Baguio campaign seen as threat to Koreans

BAGUIO CITY—BAGUIO BUSINESSMEN have protested a "Love Baguio or Leave Baguio" campaign which now threatens resident Koreans, who "refuse to follow city rules."

The campaign is aimed at "visitors who aren't follow even the simplest traffic rules," said Fabiolo Acosta, who heads the Linis-Gilipinas, a local antigraft group.

Acosta announced the campaign on Thursday over a daily news program on a local cable channel. He authors Mission Television's "Going Baguio," alongside the channel's executive producer, Ishmael Amado Quilala.

New York inspiration

Quilala said businessmen are supporting the campaign by installing billboards or by putting the slogan on their shops' light vanishing devices (LEC).

He admitted that their campaign was inspired by the "I love NY" campaign of New York City.

But unlike New York's tourist drawing agenda, the evangelizer plan to turn away Baguio visitors who refuse to obey the rules.

"We are not specifically targeting any race or nationality. But Baguio residents have had it with migrants who don't seem to love Baguio enough that they started dumping our rules," Quilala said.

Civil obedience

He described the "Love Baguio or Leave Baguio" campaign as a "civil obedience" initiative that tasks residents to initiate "minor arrests" should they encounter litterbugs or jaywalkers.

Quilala said he and teams had just attended a conference in Malaysia and were "welcomed by uncollected garbage along city streets and by new complaints raised against immigrants."

Quilala said many Baguio old-timers have been blaming the city's urban decay on the presence of "new blood." Most of these complaints revolve around "trade" Koreans, he said.

Koreans have become the soonest rapidly largest foreign population, next to Americans. About 6,000 Koreans are either enrolled in local universities or have settled here to encourage local work.

The city has the second largest Korean settlement in the Philippines, according to Bureau Filetic, Dagum immigration office.

But the Korean presence has triggered cultural clashes with residents, he said.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Panlilio says he's open to 2nd gov term

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AFTER scratching two political heavyweights in Pampanga in the May 14 elections and vowing to serve as governor for only three years, Catholic priest Eddie Panlilio said he might opt to serve a second term.

"I am open to another term. I enjoy the work," Panlilio, 53, said in reply to a radio station's question on the likelihood of his running for reelection in 2010.

The priest, who beat Gov. Mark Lapid and Board Member Lilia Pineda, seated the mainstream as he marked his first 100 days in office last Oct. 9. He showed a seven-page report of accomplishments in health, education and livelihood programs, worth P62 million, and infrastructure, worth P62 million.

Leading the highlights is the collection of P66.14 million in quarry fees and taxes in three months, which equaled the collections in three years of the Lapid administration.

Panlilio told the Inquirer that he might consider a second term if there was strong clamor for him to continue his leadership and the kind of development work he was doing.

"That's reelection work, not on winning the next race," he said.

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RP is forward operating base of US

From page A1

Our obstacle, however, is motor—domestic opposition to US military presence in the Philippines. As yet another failed leader study acknowledged: "On the matter of US access to military facilities in the Philippines, the general view of Philippine security experts is that for domestic political reasons it would be difficult to give the appearance that the United States is establishing its bases in the Philippines."

Hence, the aim has been to avoid giving this appearance. As Admiral Dennis Blair, former commander of the US Pacific Command, explained: "[We] are adapting our plans and organization of the past to the future. *These plans do not include any request by the United States for bases in the Philippines of the kind that we have had in the past.*"

"Our basic interest," said former US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, "is to have the ability to go into a country and have a relationship and have understandings about our ability to land or overfly and to do things that are of mutual benefit to each of us. But we don't have any particular plans for permanent bases if that's the kind of thing you mean."

Then, instead of "the kind of bases we had in the past," the United States is trying something new.

Training for access

First, the United States has negotiated up deploying troops, ships, and equipment to the country ostensibly for training exercises, humanitarian and engineering projects, and other missions.

Though the Visiting Forces Agreement was approved in 1998, it was only in 2001 that the number and the size of troops involved in training exercises jumped significantly. Last year alone, up to 37 exercises were scheduled, up from around 26 in the preceding years. As many as 5,000 US troops were involved, depending on the exercise. As a result of these continuing deployments, Francis Ricciardone, a former US ambassador to the Philippines, had described the US presence in the country as "semi-continuous."

Apart from training allied troops, the holding of joint exercises allows the United States to gain temporary—but repeated and regular—access to the institutions of countries in which the exercises are held. As Admiral Thomas Fargo, then US Pacific Command head, noted in March 2003: "The habitual relationships built through exercises and training ... is our biggest guarantor of success in times of need."

He said: "Access over time can develop into habitual use of certain facilities by deployed US forces with the eventual goal of being guaranteed use in a crisis, or permission to preposition logistics stocks and other critical materiel in strategic forward locations."

As US troops come and go in countries for frequent and regular exercises, their presence—which, taken together—makes up a formidable force is persistent (but benign) there closer to areas of possible action without need for large infrastructure to support them and without inciting a lot of public attention and opposition.

An analyst like Pehl had told the US House armed services committee: "Other methods of positioning, such as training rotations, can provide a temporary 'forward position' or sustain a long-term position without permanent forward stationing."

And as US troops depart, they leave behind the infrastructure that they had built and used so lavishly for the exercises and which could still be of use to the US military in the future for missions different from those for which they were initially built.

In General Santos City, for example, the United States constructed a deep water port and one of the most modern domestic airports in the country, connected to each other by one of the country's best roads. In Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, where US troops routinely go for exercises, the airport has been renovated and its runway strengthened to carry the weight of C-130 planes. In Basilan and Sulu, centers of Abkhaan exercises, the United States, through the US Agency for International Development, has also built roads and ports that can handle huge ships.

This is consistent with a US AF-funded study which recommended having deployment agreements to have more infrastructure. By increasing deployments, notes the study, the United States can get into arrangements that "include investments to collect local infrastructure to USAF operations by extending runways, improving or readjusting parking aprons and the like."

Along with troops, an increasing number of ships have been visiting the country with growing frequency ostensibly for exercises and humanitarian missions. "[The Navy counts these ships as providing overseas presence. Full time, even when they are visiting or simply tied up at the pier," said the US Congressional Budget Office.

The United States has viewed these regular and frequent "temporary" deployments as part of its global "posture," as the National Defense Strategy states, "Our posture also includes the many military activities in which we engage around the world. This means we only rent physical presence in key regions, but also our training, exercises, and operations."

Without permanent basing

Instead, the United States has developed the Philippines to provide it with a broad range of services that would enable it to launch and sustain operations from the Philippines when necessary.

In September 2001, President Macapagal-Arroyo granted use of the Usik airstrip in Palawan to US Special Forces and allowed it over-flight rights. In November 2002, the US and Philippine governments signed the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), which has been described by analysts as akin to the US Congressional Research Service as "allowing the United States to use the Philippines as a supply base for military operations throughout the region."

The MLSA obliges the Philippine government to—among other efforts—to provide the United States with logistics supplies, support and services during its services, training, operations, and other US military deployments. The agreement defines them to include food, water, petroleum, oils, clothing, ammunition, spare parts and components, billeting, transportation, communication, medical services, operations support, training services, repair and maintenance, storage services, and port services. "Construction and use of temporary structures" are also covered.

Cooperative security locations

In other words, the MLSA gives the United States access to the full range of services that the US military would require to operate in and from the country. Through the MLSA, the United States has secured for itself the services that would normally be able to provide it with inside a large permanent base but without constructing and retaining large permanent bases, and without incurring the costs and the political problems that such bases pose.

Third, the United States has established in the Philippines a new category of military installation it calls "Cooperative Security Locations" (CSLs).

In August 2005, the Overseas Basing Commission, the official commission tasked with reviewing US basing, categorically identified the Philippines as one of the countries where CSLs were being developed by the United States in the region. As mentioned earlier, CSLs refer to facilities used by host governments, but are to be made available for use by the US military as needed.

The Philippine government has not disclosed the locations and other details of these CSLs. But the description by Roland Dagher, a prominent American journalist and best selling author who has visited each facility, is revealing. He noted, in quoted here in full because of the dearth of information about these facilities and their use, it could be describing the Philippines.

"A Cooperative Security Location can be a tucked-away corner of a host country's civilian airport, or a dirt runway somewhere with a few basic buildings and a control tower. Or it can help nearby, or a military airport in a friendly country with which we have no formal basing agreement but, rather, an informal arrangement with private contractors acting as go-betweens. ... The host nation usually provides aid to upgrade maintenance facilities, thereby helping the host country to better protect its own air and naval power in the region. At the same time, we build particular structures with the host country's military in which the base is a home," he also said.

"We also offer humanitarian help to the surrounding area, funds civil affairs projects geared to positive publicity for our military in the local media. The result is a positive diplomatic context for getting the host country's approval for use of the base when and if we need it," he said.

The notion of the MLSA and the establishment of CSLs reflect the United States' increasing emphasis on just in time logistics support and prepositioning of equipment to ensure that US forces are always ready and on the go. Therefore, it is not so much the size of the base that matters but whether it can provide the US military with what it needs, when it's needed.

As the General on Foreign Relations pointed out: "While host nation support often carries the burden of basing, its role of staging and access is perhaps more critical. Support for port visits, ship repairs, overflight rights, training areas, and opportunities, and areas to maneuver, stage, transit, and resupply are no less important for both daily US presence in the region and for rapid and flexible crisis response."

Forward operating base

Fourth, the United States has succeeded in indefinitely stationing a US military unit in the country.

Since 2002, a unit now called the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) has been deployed to the southern Philippines. While initially presented as being part of on-again off-again temporary training exercises, it has since been revealed that the unit has maintained its presence in the country continuously for the last six years.

With the Philippine government not giving a definite endorse, and with US officials stating that they will only stay "as long as it is allowed by the government, it is presumed that it will continue to be based in the Philippines for the long haul.

The unit is headquartered in Camp Navarro in Zamboanga City but its "area of operations," surrounding it is US military publications, spans 8,000 square miles, covering the entire island of Mindanao and its surrounding islands and waters.

The number of troops belonging to the unit has ranged from 160 to 450 but it is not clear what the actual total is for a specific period, according to a comprehensive compilation of publicly available reports. It numbers "depending on the mission and the mission," said US Lt. Col. Mark Zimmer, JSOTF-P public affairs officer.

When it was publicly revealed last month that the US had spent almost of billion, via a US military counterpart unit, had granted a contract to a company providing "base operations support" for the JSOTF-P the US Embassy admitted that the United States was setting up "temporary" operations, terminology for "medical, logistical, administrative services" and facilities "for them to eat, sleep and work."

The Visiting Forces Commission of the Philippines also confirmed that the United States was maintaining "living quarters" and stocks supplies inside Philippine military camps.

(Reuters Reuters Darbaugh, Summit.org) is a researcher with focus on the Global South, a policy research institute.)

Fearful faces get noticed first before smiling ones

From page B1

The researchers believe fearful facial expressions make a beeline to the alarm centers of the brain because as the amygdala, causing humans to perceived threats a.

"We think what is happening with fear is that this is a critical threat signal for us," said David Zald, associate professor of psychology at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee.

"Your tells you something is wrong, and you need to pay attention," Zald said in a telephone interview on Sunday.

To find out which images get the brain's attention first, Zald, graduate student Xiaosi Tang and colleagues used a technique called visual flash suppression that slows down the brain's temporary processing of faces—which typically register in less than 50 milliseconds.

Special viewer

The researchers had people look into a special viewer that allowed each eye to see different images at the same time.

"If you present different images to the two eyes, usually you will only perceive one of them at a time," Zald explained.

The image that registers with the brain typically depends on which eye is dominant for that person.

"But if one of the eyes is presented by a dynamic, changing stimulus, it will basically suppress perception from the other eye," Zald said.

Using this approach, the researchers showed people a static image of a face in one eye and a series of rapidly presented, emotion images in another, creating a type of visual "noise."

People then were asked to indicate when they first registered the static face in the first eye.

The eyes have it

The researchers found that people became aware of fearful expressions much faster than neutral or happy faces. "We were seeing it pretty much universally," Zald said.

He thinks it has something to do with the eyes.

"If you compare the amounts of the whites showing with a fearful face versus a neutral face, the difference is really quite striking," Zald said.

People who were shown images only of eyes consistently picked out the fearful ones first.

Zald said fear appeared to be such important information that these images shortcut the normal pathway for processing visual images through the visual cortex.

Little interest

The study, which appears in the journal Emotion, also reveals how little interest the brain has in smiling faces.

"The happy expressions were slower to be detected than even the neutral expressions," Zald said, suggesting things that signal a lack of threat need decreased attention.

He said facial expressions represented a crucial way for people to convey social information.

"We see the effects on people who can't do this well. Autistic children, for instance, cannot read emotional expressions in others very well. They have devastating social consequences because of this," Zald said. Reuters

THROUGH song and dance, members of the Global Call to Action against Poverty prepare to mark International Day of Hunger and Poverty Eradication on Oct. 17. ALEX BALTAZAR

Local group taps music in fight against poverty

From page A1

where people are encouraged to act and empowered to do something about their situation," Mayi Sibson, GCAP Philippines media campaigner, told the Inquirer.

Introducing "Poverty Requiem" in natural, lyrical-loving Filipinos is a new task, Sibson said, of bringing back awareness to those who have started to take poverty for granted "because they see it around them every day."

She stressed that the message was hard to deliver but through music, her group hoped to "spark" some healing back.

"People should be made aware that if poverty happens to one person, it could ultimately happen to you," she said.

Sibson added that the song would also help people already in the grip of poverty "to understand their rights so they would know what to do to live above it." She said that her group wanted to focus on the right of a person to own a better life and live decently.

"Poverty Requiem," Fabros said, "will hopefully start a fire within people to help them find ways to uplift their lives in encourages turning desperation to power. Art and music can do that."

"We are producing generations and generations of persons who see poverty as an inescapable fact of life. I was born poor therefore, I will always remain poor and I cannot do anything about it. That's the mind-set we want to change," she said.

Artistic performance

"Poverty Requiem" is an artistic performance against poverty that combines mind art, music and movement. Divided into five parts, the piece is a journey of standing up and speaking out against poverty of the soul-lasting, the singer, the frustrating, the hatred and the hope.

The five-part song started from the Netherlands and was composed by Sylvia Borren, GCAP General Director.

It is more of a community-choral presentation where people from all walks of life are anticipated to participate. "Even those who cannot sing well are encouraged to join and even those who do not want to sing. They can just dance to the music," she stressed.

The core performers of "Poverty Requiem" come from four sectors—the youth, males, professionals and a "wrench in men performed" group that would be organized from the community, men solo singers, percussionists, and dancers.

Born of the Philippines

Sibson said that her organization could not have found a better ambassador in singer-composer Noel Cabangon, who has been in the forefront of the campaign for the eradication of poverty even before GCAP Philippines was formed in 2005.

"He is basically the Nelson Mandela or Bob Bonsof the Philippines, who is not just doing this for publicity but for true advocacy. He has been doing this for years through his songs," she noted.

Cabangon is the coordinator of "Poverty Requiem" here and has tapped Mikki Malone, a professor at the University of the Philippines College of Music, to act as the conductor of the community choir.

Getting message across

"Even if we only have a hundred participants, we know that we can get the message across. We have to be a community to make change," Sibson pointed out, adding that "Poverty Requiem" will form part of a chain of occasions, from now World to Third World, countries who want to create poverty.

"The call is around us, worldwide, and it is only fitting that we express our outrage against poverty through music, a universal language that everyone can understand and feel," Sibson said.

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OPINION

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Purchased friendships

EDITORIAL

IN THE PAST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has been acting unusually in her office in Malacañang Palace, consistently flaring threats to her continuance in office. It is a tribute to her political instincts and Machiavellian ways that she still sits on the throne, although it is a throne propped up by bayonets.

Like the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Ms Arroyo knows that the only way an unpopular president can stay in office is to get the unflinching support of the armed forces and the police. She has also learned well the lesson of deposed President Joseph Estrada, one of the most popular presidents ever to sit in Malacañang, who lost the presidency because he lost the support of the military and the police.

Now she is facing another threat in the form of planned impeachment moves. Again, she has moved swiftly, and this time it is the support of congressmen and local government officials that she is trying to obtain. The game plan was to approve a weak impeachment charge against Ms Arroyo so that she would be "exonerated" from other, possibly stronger impeachment cases for a year.

As in the case of the armed forces and the police, the principal weapons of the President is money, judging from the reports about the "cash gifts," "assistance," "goodwill presents," etc. given after crucial meetings in Malacañang.

The exposure of the bribery of the congressmen, who will earn no the impeachment case filed against Mr Arroyo, turned into Monday when Rep. Crispin Beltran of the Anakpawis party-list group said a Malacañang "functionary" had offered him P2 million to endorse the "weak" impeachment case against the President. There other administration congressmen have confirmed the "cash gifts" from Malacañang. One subsequently denied it. A source later said the amounts given to the congressmen were shortchanged, and of the average P200,000 distributed to every legislator, P150,000 was for three months' allowance while P50,000 was a "bonus" from Speaker Jose de Venecia. But if that was so, why was the money distributed in Malacañang, and after a meeting with the President?

Then on Saturday, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio disclosed that a Palace official handed him a brown paper gift bag containing P500,000 in crisp P1,000 bills. This was given to him after separate meetings of local government officials with the President in Malacañang on Thursday. He said he accepted it after he was told that he could use the money for "barangay projects."

Last Sunday two other governors said they received P500,000 each from Malacañang. The anomalous reason for the "gift" was to obtain their support for the weak impeachment case against Ms Arroyo so that she would be "exonerated" for at least a year.

These reports about the bribery of congressmen, governors and mayors show the depths of brazenness to which the President and her subalterns will descend in corrupting government officials to obtain their support for a move that would ensure her continuance in office. Bribery is committed right at the seat of the presidency or in the halls of Congress.

Is the money being given away public funds? If they are public funds, then the congressmen and the local government officials should have been made to sign receipts and other official documents showing the disbursement of public funds. These funds are money that comes from taxpayers and they have the right to ask Malacañang to account for their disbursement. If these are the private funds of Ms Arroyo, how can she afford to give away sums amounting to hundreds of millions, possibly billions, to these officials?

If the money being used to bribe congressmen, governors and mayors are public funds, it is ironic that taxpayers' money is being used to prop up a President who has lost the confidence of the great majority of the citizens. If an election were to be held today Ms Arroyo would be booted out of office. A Social Weather Stations survey published last Sept. 24 showed that only 3 of every 10 Filipinos were satisfied with her performance.

One passage in Machiavelli's "The Prince" says that "friendships that are obtained by payments, and not by greatness or nobility of mind, may indeed be earned, but they are not secured, and in time of need cannot be relied upon."

Money may save the President now, but she cannot be sure about her position all the time.

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Caesar's choice

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

BY CELEBRATING "HAPPINESS IN SOLITUDE," led by Buddhist monks, the Bhutan press claimed for Caesar what belongs to God.

Bhutan does the right orchestration of worship lines in other Southeast Asian countries? The stark second is aimed in rendering to God what is not Caesar's, says the 2007 International Religious Freedom report. A ranger from here in Buddhist Thailand and Christian Philippines is improving its notable Bhutan. "Even in the form of religious terms... A united front against terrorism" that any government fully respected this right," continues this annual US State Department report. But some countries did better than others.

The commissioners of once Asian countries which in prestigious on freedom of worship, except Burma's. The generals are in authority to remove the charter they scrapped in 1990.

Next door Thailand allows "the generally free practice of religion." About 94 percent of Thais are Buddhists and 5 percent Muslims. There have been "few reports of criminal abuses based on religious belief" in four of the five southern provinces, separatist violence is causing some relations between Buddhist and Muslim communities.

Brunei's constitution states that the country's religion is Muslim "according to the Shafi'i sect... The country's various religious groups operate peacefully." Jim Bruce-Lockhart reminisces on non-Shafi'i religious practice. Christianity is a no-no in schools, but Muslim students get voluntary Islamic instruction. Laws and financial incentives for mosque construction promote official Islam.

Malaysia's constitution recognizes Islam as "the religion of the Federation." About 60 percent of Malaysians are Muslims. Politics jump economic and educational preferences for ethnic Malays who are legally categorized as Bumiputras at birth. Political parties have to ethnic and religious lines.

Non-Muslims may worship as they see fit, but restrictions have risen in... Distribution of Malay-language Christian literature to Peninsular Malaysia is forbidden. Muslims may not convert to another religion. Non-Muslims must convert to Islam, if they want to marry a Muslim.

Iran's Supreme Federal Court is reviewing complaints where children, born of non-Muslim converts or who married in churches or temples, were forcibly taken by Islamic religious authorities from parents. They are ordered taken with gross "rehabilitation" of the "deviating" parent.

In Singapore, "there were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious belief or practice." About 85 out of every 100 Singaporeans "profess some religious faith." Their majority, 51 percent, are Buddhists. Muslims and Christians make up 15 percent.

Speech or actions which government deems to "adversely affect racial or religious harmony" are curbed. Jehovah's Witnesses and the Unification Church have been banned but foreign missionaries work unhindered.

Vietnam made today but timely progress in broadening respect for religious practice. Under its 2004 Ordinance on Religion and linked rules abuses were registered throughout the 64 provinces. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and Pope Benedict XVI, in January 2007 on this further easing of curbs. But registration of Protestant congregations and Catholic seminaries suffered bureaucratic delays, etc. Meanwhile, most religious groups reported improved conditions... And Vietnamese citizens practice religion freely.

Although Jakarta recognizes only six major religions, most Indonesians "enjoyed a high degree of religious freedom (and) the public generally respected religious freedom." Over 88 percent of 240 million Indonesians are Muslim. Christians make up 5 percent. Government sometimes glosses over discrimination and abuse of minority religious groups. Violence and harassment accompanying a terrorist's detention of other religious occurred in certain provinces... Many perpetrators... were not brought to justice. "Government didn't find conviction-based authority to overturn local laws that disregarded the rights of women and religious minorities."

The Philippines "generally respected its constitutional provision on freedom of religion." Majority are Catholics. Between 5 and 9 percent of Filipinos are Muslims. Most are Sunnis, with a sprinkling of Shi'a believers. An estimated 1.2 to 1.6 million belong to indigenous groups who mix their native religious creeds with Christian practices.

The Muslim minority have been discriminated against in some Christian, Wide economic and social disparities between Muslim provinces and other parts of the country "economic" and "political problems" persist as peace talks continue. Conversion of Christians to Islam is most typical among those who worked in an Islamic country. This, is largely because overseas living social and economic benefits while abroad. Many of these "converts of convenience" remain Christians upon their return and are known collectively as "Balik Islam."

Japan's mixed track record must be measured against standards that member countries have adopted. Article 18 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for example, provides that "everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion."

That calls for an end to brutality, whether Burmese intimidate beating monks or Abu Sayyaf beheading bibles that burn in the name of Allah. The issue with the monks, whether by coercion or pressure or laws, that look one other feeble reason to be issued out.

In Akram, the "best freedoms"—worship, speech, assembly and the press...remain elusive but valid ideals.

E-mail: jmercado@gmail.com/

Finally, Good vs Evil

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HAD A PET THEORY OVER THE PAST years to explain why we Filipinos have grown apathetic and indifferent. Or indeed why our capacity to tolerate the most glaring iniquity and wrongdoing has grown to mind-boggling proportions. That is that we have not had a collision of Good vs. Evil for some time now.

That was the storyline that ended a couple of recesses in the past. The storyline of Good vs. Evil during the first Edsa was patent. That was Cory vs. Marcos, Joan of Arc vs. Machiavelli, Hope vs. Despair.

The same storyline was there during the second Edsa, though by more subtly because it didn't carry any one face to represent Good. It was Erap's impeachment trial, a hugely popular melodrama or morality tale, which drew home the storyline of Good vs. Evil. As in Erap's own words, you had lowlyshirts in the form of de antepuesillo lawyers in three-piece suits headed by retired Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and Inks in the form of underdog but heroic prosecutors, headed by Joker Arroyo before he turned to the Dark Side.

You need that storyline of Good vs. Evil to get people not just angry but enslaved to right wrongs. We have a storyline only of Evil vs. Evil, or a battle between relative evils, and, Houston, you have a problem.

That is what I think has happened to us over the past couple of years. What we've had is more a storyline of Good vs. Evil Out of Evil vs. Evil. Not the kind of the reasons for it is that, until recently the main opposition to GMA's rule has come from Erap's camp, or what was widely perceived to be so. You have Evil vs. Evil instead of Good vs. Evil, you say you're going to get people angry and saying to act, you are going to get people angry—and cynical.

How much more cut can you paint the current scenario of Malacañang? You don't need to do anything, she herself supplies the black. Or black for her pot kettle. Dubbing Arroyo as one with more and deeper instances of malfeasance, but without a Good to light the dark, we do not see or perceive it, we only see so, well, make very jokes about it.

But here's the part where after a long spell, I've finally become a little more hopeful and optimistic. That is the luminous event that became our headline last Sunday. That is Wenpango Gov. Ed Panlilio telling the world he was given half a million pesos last Thursday after separate meetings with GMA. "I believe that the money came from Malacañang. That's what I believe it is public money on the checklist. It's unconscionable for such manipulation abuse it... to a grave and public official, I should not be."

What especially gladdens me about this is that since May this year, I've wondered if Panlilio could be like me, not in the forefront of national life and in the Cory vs GMA's Marcos. Certainly his showing in the last elections, which he turned into a spark of People Power, rallying the folk of Pampanga to end the reign of hated dark lords, or lords of murky eras, and usher in a reign of decency suggests he has the stuff to take it. That is a story of Good vs. Evil, if on a minor scale, which holds the potential of being replicated on a national level.

But far more than that, what makes me positively hopeful and optimistic about this is that what Panlilio has done is the perfect republican or civilized response to the evil that plagues us. Whether he personally can be another Cory or not, he has shown in the face of food that can lead to big and astonishing things. What is the one thing that most characterizes this regime? It is its capacity to lie. We, more than that, it is its capacity to lie for a lie. That has been down deep into our brains, like a dentist's drill on cavities, over the last few weeks in particular, not least in Senate Neil's fear and trembling. At the prospect of divulging what he knows and all he knows.

And what has Panlilio done over the weekend? He has told the truth. In one simple, quiet, unobtrusive gesture, he has brought a running rain pounding on the carapace of falsehood. He has brought light to those blindingly on pitch dark. He has brought air bearing the scent of purple to those trapped under the rubble. That biblical injunction may yet prove newsmaker prophetic to those don't listen, to this dark place.

The truth shall set you free.

Those whose effigies are burned together

I'M HAMPERED TO SEND THE ASSURANCE OF the relief of the Presidential Management Staff, Gregor Fernandez, Jane Fernandez, Presidente Mamapaid Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia. Some seemed to keep the ruling coalition intact in the wake of intrigues hounding them." I have no reason to doubt Fernandez's pronouncement, as he is a close friend of GMA, and I have known him for a long time. It's also the most logical position there. I have always said that GMA and JDV decided reunion entered as a political ploy for the sake of the country and their party to face. The alternative then would be chaos, and the Arroyo-led administration can't afford that.

The problem is that an unholy intrigue abounds. Right in the Palace, many bootlicks are trying to drive a wedge between them, for opposite of their own. This is unacceptable and what this loyalists should do, above all the intrigues and maintain their position intact, for to Lakas stalwart Ruben Ancheta put it, the GMA-JDV reunion has now the most significant bipartisan progress passed by Congress, from the Senate to the House, and that must be done, he said, adding that the latter's internal sound manner is unique identical to the chamber.

I should add that despite all the intrigue, JDV has remained loyal to GMA. He's not flirting, assuming traits. Last week, for instance, he urged visiting members of the Spanish Parliament at a luncheon he conducted for them, as well at Spanish Ambassador Luis Arias, to thank the respective countries for the strong investment ties between the two countries. He noted that this project can now be financed through the reinvestment of $8 debt to equity, as nearly authorized in a Spanish legislation. It would be a fantastic way to the same visit to Queen of Peruvian Arroyo if the bureaucratic intervention project could be signed by her and the Spanish prime minister, JDV said.

* * *

An interesting angle was raised by the appeal that has escalated regarding the delegation by Speaker De Venecia to Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar of the ministerial duty of endorsing the Bureau of Public Employment of more than 1,000 persons, mainly Ilocanos, Bulan Rodriguez and Teodolo Zamora said this authority delegated by the Speaker to the Speaker cannot be delegated further to "an agent." The opposition seems to challenge this before the Supreme Court. What is interesting about this case is that the Court could actually end up throwing back the Pulido complaint to JDV's office.

Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada is working on enacting the poorly drafted corruption because it duplicates laws as well as his son and RMA-45 in the three-page declaration. Other issues said JDV's ability to date since then investigate the allegations of Rep. Crispin Beltran that a Palace functionary is behind leaks and other maleficence of Pulido's complaint a few millions each that why would this functionary become Beltran who isn't very his mouth that we are thought? Another theory, the Speaker himself, that Beltran is making a complaint. The second line, and is to assist that JDV's political allies do not like this work complaint as it would jeopardize any plan by them to file a more serious complaint to oust them. Earlier it stated that last Thursday's closed-door session of the House committee on justice, JDV suddenly turns about-face and instructed Del Mar to endorse the Pulido complaint as the committee report with open pressure from the Palace, to pressure GMA from a second complaint.

* * *

If the Supreme Court returns the complaint back to JDV's camp, some pundits think that far from being just a setback, it could acquire some life of its own. Pulido's complaint is not dead, by fact. It seems to have already acquired new life.

* * *

Congress sources state that their time to investigate the protest has been for the installment allegations of corruption in the Department of Education, and to hold hostage funds, use of graduate for their support and to give help for their programs and projects. One lawmaker told me that the funds given out last Thursday to House members and Senate officials constituted a financial help for the barangay elections, inasmuch as the officials are also supposed to support their local leaders in the barangay elections. This is a tradition that dates back to the 1960s, a part of our political culture, and the constant, and anyone desiring becomes involved it is a supporter.

* * *

The senators last Sept. 13 at the Cinema Plaza, featuring singer Diana Ross Eagle and a bevy of other talents, including the new male singing group Cinco Angeles, for the benefit of the Alay sa Kinabukasan (ASK) Foundation was anonymously announced. It is a program that provides educational benefit program for the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in action as well as the families of those severely wounded in combat. But ASK's funds remain in benefit limbo because of the tendency of soldiers to die in combat, and the need for legislation to collect funds for our financial assistance to the widows and orphans. We're fortunate that producer Bob Sinon Eagle of Newsmakers Inc. has again made ASK the beneficiary of another concert on Saturday, Dec. 27 at Francisco Gonzalez. This concert features celebrity Cinco Angeles, which is often referred to as the best version of the Italian group 10 Tenor. Tickets are now available for purchase, and prices at P15, 540, 1,080, 2,160 and 3,240. Tickets may be obtained at the Ticketworld outlets at Glorietta, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Ermita, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Magnolia, Robinsons Place Antipolo, Robinsons Cainta, Robinsons Novaliches, Robinsons Las Piñas, Robinsons Bacoor, Robinsons Dasmariñas, Robinsons Iloilo, Robinsons Cebu, Robinsons Cagayan de Oro, Robinsons Davao, Robinsons Butuan, Robinsons General Santos, Robinsons Tacloban, Robinsons Bacolod, Robinsons Pampanga, Robinsons Lipa, Robinsons Batangas, Robinsons Naga, Robinsons Legazpi, Robinsons Roxas, Robinsons Puerto Princesa, Robinsons Tuguegarao, Robinsons Dagupan, Robinsons Baguio, Robinsons Urdaneta, Robinsons Laoag, Robinsons Cabanatuan, Robinsons Tarlac, Robinsons Olongapo, Robinsons Iligan, Robinsons Zamboanga, Robinsons Marikina, Robinsons Malolos, Robinsons Calamba, Robinsons Lucena, Robinsons Santiago, Robinsons

A country in desperate search of the heroic

"I'M HAPPY THE LAO TZU DE IS SO MUCH of heroes," said Bertolt Brecht, the famous Unusual playwright. If Brecht is right, then the Philippines is indeed an unhappy land. It is so much in need of heroes that it searches under every rock for heroes. It also explains why Filipinos practically go into hysterics in exaltation of Manny Pacquiao. "Holy in the heart of boxing, he is one of our greats and one of the world's greats. But now's our moment, right? After all, in sports, it is the number of medals won, not just a solitary victory that accords prestige to a country.

We always use overseas Filipino workers as modern-day heroes which they might well deserve. But in doing so, are deeming the humble farmer, fisherman, waiter, doctor, nurse, engineer, street sweeper who stays despite starvation wages to build and feed the nation, I mean the kind Filipino is conditioned to stand in awe of every hubbub-heroic simple because he or she exists in exile? Every nanny, taxi driver or janitor who carries a wallet is finished as if hero-worthy is now virtue among Filipinos. In fact, many have been known to die under precipitate pre-Spanish times iron-and-blast.

Self-made billionaires are worshipped whereas regard as to how they made their money. Celebrities are elected to public office regardless of their qualifications. We thank government leaders who have put during their duty rush as sewing without asking for a tip, even though property we should commend those only who perform a "service beyond the call of duty" and with no expectation of a reward.

So why is there such a frantic search for "heroes"? Is it because Filipinos feel that they have failed as a nation and they need "heroes" to boost their self-respect? Even an innocent joke in the TV series "Desperate Housewives" looked for a while like it had triggered a Filipino "revolt" against their idols, the Americans, even though such "insult" was aimed only at a mindless television series, and not at America's right control of our economic policies and political processes that invariably keep us poor. At city's in a frenzy, obviously defining "Filipino" as a "triad" also triggered a revolt against the "mother country" of our "mother country." Perhaps if we stop squeezing dumb as if they were commodities, such impressions would stop.

Seriously, we can best refuse and resist foreign days if we put our brain in order, enable all of our citizens to have a decent living right in our country, eliminate their dependency on foreign employers and avoid immediately to foreign governments... Just like the Malaysians, Singaporeans and Chinese have done—and their people in the rest of world will respect us as nations as longing them to do so.

—RANDY DAVID
philstar@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Government losing the war on hunger

A NEW SAD SECRET ON HUNGER REvealed that more Filipinos had nothing to eat at least once in the last three months. That is an indication that the government has lost its "war on hunger."

The war on hunger declared by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last March was a sham, even a scandal. Billions of pesos belonging to the people were down the drain, that is, spent, with no accomplishments to show. How, pa, last September, millions subjected the provinces allowances as accounting and assessments, there was the announcement that another P12 billion will be set aside to fund the "Food for School Program."

The program is conducive a failure. Congress must venture to conclusion and task does been its budget has been spent. The National Nutritional Survey's (NNS) on a worth P12 billion and shows similar prime time and front page. The anti-hunger budgets of P1 billion last March and P1.3 billion this September past to undisputedly, has they are to have deportation because they devotedly affirm this point.

As a "band-aid solution" to a crisis that needs major surgery, the government's anti-hunger program, from the very beginning, was headed to fail. The first meals and other feeding activities—the government supposedly made accountable to the poor hardly scratched the surface of the hunger problem. So hunger is rooted in the flawed political set-up, policy and delay. The cheap labor policy, hopefully, to factory workers and employment, which appears all combine to deny the workers and the poor their daily bread. For example, the present minimum wage of P362 in the National Capital Region is not even half the P760 cost of living in the metropolis.

We call for an economic relief package that includes legislated wage hike, tax exemption for workers earning below the mercy of living, subsidies for basic goods and services, and reduction in the labor tasks to genuine jobs, repeal of the law on automatic debt payments and realignments of savings to fund socialized housing as well as livelihood and social programs.

—SEGFRE OLEDAN, national vice president, Kilusang Mayo Uno; Jonathan Sink II (at C.) Unkaya Kaya Sr., Pinoy Digat Organizer, Navotas, MM

Protecting news sources a key journalistic duty

THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS OF the Philippines expresses serious concern over the issuance of arrest warrants to cite a reporter for contempt of the senate should she refuse to reveal her sources, have a newspaper manager jailed, and, worst, amended or repealed the law protecting confidential news sources.

The Senate on Sept. 28 published a story quoting unnamed sources about filing loan sales Arroyo reportedly blanked before testimony at former Gen. Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri during the Senate close-door hearing. Juliet Labog-Javellana wrote the story.

Arroyo filed a resolution seeking to investigate the basis for publishing the report, Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor Santiago and Francis Escudero supported Arroyo's resolution. Enrile and Santiago suggested that the reporter be cited for contempt unless she revealed her sources.

This is intimidation and a violation of the principles of press freedom. This is unacceptable.

But Enrile urged the repeal or amendment of Republic Act 53 or the Sotto Law that protects the publisher, editor, columnist or duly accredited reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of general circulation from being compelled by the court to reveal their sources.

The Sotto Law, also known as the Press Freedom Law, is aimed precisely to protect press freedom and keep unscrupulous men from intimidating journalists and their sources.

Persons not entitled to the sources of information is also an obligation of the journalists and it is key to getting information to come forward. This is precisely the importance in anonymity, among others, corruption to get concerns.

If the Press Freedom Law is repealed or weakened, sources would be deterred from coming forward and the public would remain uninformed about vital matters.

The NUJP supports Labog-Javellana and the National in their decision not to reveal the identities of the sources.

The fact that these staunch actions are being initiated by senators, who should know that the protection of the journalists' sources is an essential part of press freedom, makes these actions even more reprehensible.

—JOE TORRES JR., chair
NEWITA CHAVEZ, secretary-general,
National Union of Journalists
of the Philippines, 305 A Roxas Center St.,
Quezon City

DOJ's Gonzalez back in fighting mood

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ IS back! Ummm, we have a problem!

Gonzalez is again in a good fighting mood and ready as always to "lash out at the critics" of his boss who "inspires" him to true lungpanahon. He HATES WEEDS, we can see his itch to wield on his arms, that irresistible urge for a "justice secretary" continues to cling to his psychic tattoos.

Impervious to public perception that his service only the interest of President Macapagal-Arroyo and not the Filipino people, Gonzalez defies all sense of absurdities, are so serious points. He has no qualms calling anyone who thinks his boss "lied, cheated and stole" the 2004 presidential election, for seems to think the country would fall apart without him, and President Arroyo can't thank him enough for being such a loyalist.

God help the Philippines!

—STEVE'S VESPERA,
stevesbbl@yahoo.com

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Across the NATION

Farmers fail to win case in Palace

FEMALE policemen inspect one of several firearms seized during a raid in a Lipa City village by police. The haul of shotguns rivals in the city yielded unlicensed guns. RAFY CABAL

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—FOR THE SECOND time, the Office of the President has sided with the powerful Quisumbing business family over a land redistribution controversy involving their estate in Sumilao, Bukidnon.

The Office of the President junked a petition of the Sumilao farmers to revoke a standing order allowing the conversion of the Quisumbing farm from grain-agricultural to agro-industrial use.

Torres order

The first time the Office of the President favored the Quisumbing family in the same dispute was in 1996 when then executive secretary Ruben Torres allowed its land conversion, providing an escape for the estate's coverage from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The so-called "Torres order" came about amid strong opposition from then agrarian reform secretary Ernesto Garilao, then President Fidel Ramos' supposed ally-up for agrarian reform matters.

Protest march

This developed as the farmers pushed through with the 40-day protest march from their village in Sumilao to Manila in a "continuing search for justice."

In a three-page decision dated Oct. 5, 2007 signed by deputy executive secretary Manuel Gaite, the Office of the President gave credence to the argument of the Norberto Quisumbing Sr. Management and Development Corp. (NQSMDMC) that the petitioners "lack legal standing."

NQSMDMC owns the disputed 144-hectare estate located in Barangay San Vicente in Sumilao town which was awarded in 177 Hacienda farmers in September 1996 through CARP.

But the award was taken back within six months as the NQSMDMC obtained the land use conversion order by March 1996.

Gaite signed the decision "by authority of the executive secretary."

Farmers' arguments

The decision recognized that the Sumilao farmers' arguments "seem plausible" but that it was, however, dismissible as they "are not real parties in interest."

The Oct. 5 decision was in response to a Nov. 10, 2006 petition of the farmers after an earlier dismissal by the DAR secretary of a similar petition.

The Sumilao farmers filed a petition for reversion of the conversion order on Nov. 3, 2004 with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) secretary.

On Oct. 27, 2006, Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman dismissed the petition, saying it has no jurisdiction over the matter as it was the Office of the President that allowed the conversion in March 1996.

Farmers' appeal

In their petition, the farmers argued that the DAR erred in saying it has no jurisdiction over the matter, and hence should have resolved the question of the conversion order's revocation.

As early as June 19, 2006, the DAR's northern Mindanao regional office has reported to the DAR secretary the non-compliance by NQSMDC of the conversion.

The memorandum cited an initial inspection that shows "there has been no development in the NQSMDC property which purports to be in line with the conversion application of the landowners."

Under DAR rules, the NQSMDC's non-compliance is ground for revoking the conversion order and subjecting the re-, ion again to CARP coverage. Jhoen D. Bunsaro, Inquirer Mindanao

Cops seize guns, bullets in Lipa City raid

GAMP. VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA —Operatives of the Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG) of the Caraballo police ties raided five houses in Lipa City on Monday and arrested five persons, including an incumbent barangay captain, for keeping unlicensed firearms.

Arrested were Barangay Malo-gonilong chair Emiliano Carbog, his sons Rolando and Ronnie, Frank Lapuz and Tito Santarin, chief of the village warehouse.

Confiscated from them were three assault rifles, seven handguns, nine pieces of assorted gun parts and bullets.

Supt. Roger James Billadino, RSOG chief, said operatives escaped down on the residences of the suspects at around 7:30 a.m. after receiving information that they owned several unlicensed firearms.

Billadino said police believe the firearms will be used by Carbog and his supporters to ensure their victory in the Oct. 29 barangay elections.

"This operation is part of our efforts to ensure peaceful and orderly elections. You can expect more raids in the next few days," Billadino told the reporters.

He said the search on the houses of Carbog and his sons were covered by search warrants.

He said the suspects, who are now detained at the PDEU non-penary jail at this camp, did not resist arrest. Marchen Bunsoy, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Newsbrief

Rebs attack 2 more cell sites

LEGAZPI CITY—Communist guerrillas attacked two more cell sites of a leading telecommunications firm in Camarines Sur and Sorsogon, police said.

On Sunday at about 2 a.m., New People's Army rebels fired at a Globe cell site in Magallanes, Sorsogon. No one was injured.

Police said it was unusual that the rebels did not touch a Smart cell site located just about 500 meters from the Globe cell site.

On Saturday, at about 1 p.m., another Globe cell site was burned in Libmanan, Camarines Sur also by NPA rebels.

Police said the rebels were demanding revolutionary taxes from Globe. Ephraim Apolinar, with a report from Bobby G. Labrador, Inquirer Southern Luzon

2 guerrilla suspects nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY—Two suspected members of the New People's Army were arrested in an encounter with elements of the Philippine National Police in Sorsogon Sunday, a report reaching Camp Gen. Simeon Ola here said.

The report said policemen conducting checkpoint operations accosted a group of suspicious looking men for a routine check in Barangay Lomboy, Gubat town in Sorsogon at 11:30 a.m.

The men, however, fired at the police, prompting the law enforcers to return fire until the two suspects surrendered while the others were able to escape, it said.

The report identified the arrested suspects as Dominador Dapalla, alias Ka Jerome, 33, resident of Barangay Union, Gubat town; and Jason Cabion, alias Ka Jerry, 18, resident of Barangay Ilia, Barcelona, Sorsogon town. Jeannes Lee Ibañez, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Comelec issues reminder

CEBU CITY—Acting Commission on Elections chair Resurreccion Borra has reminded provincial, city and town poll officials to disseminate resolutions pertaining to the Oct. 29 barangay and youth elections.

"It is imperative that candidates in the Barangay and the Sangguniang Kabataang Barangay elections and the public in general are aware of the Comelec guidelines," said city election registrar Arlan Mangahas.

Comelec Resolution 8232 pertains to the ban of campaign and other propaganda materials of which a candidate is only allowed to spend P3 per voter.

Mangahas said poster sizes should not exceed two feet by three feet and must only be displayed within the designated common garden areas. Charito C. Galvez, Inquirer Mindanao

Port project has no ECC

SUBIC BAY CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has warned the Philippine Ports Authority that its ongoing reclamation project at the port's area violated environmental laws.

Antonio Galindez, the provincial environment and natural resources officer for Region Oriental, reminded the PPA at a forum Thursday that an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) is needed before any reclamation project of even remotely critical areas can push through.

The Philippine Ports Authority would reclaim 5,100 square meters behind the PPA office at a cost of P28M, million for a container terminal.

PPA Port Manager Vicente Cuizon Jr. said the reclamation project does not have an ECC and they have not applied for one.

Abe Pal, Inquirer Visayas

House sets probe of PhilHealth claims

By Nestor Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

EGELO CITY—THE House of Representatives is set to conduct an investigation of alleged fraudulent and irregular claims filed before the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

Iloilo Rep. Janette Garin authored a resolution last week directing the appropriations committees of the House to conduct an inquiry on alleged irregularities in PhilHealth claims involving hundreds of millions of pesos.

The resolution, coauthored by representatives Mo. Rachel Arenas (Pangasinan), Abul Khayr Alonto (Southern Sulu) and Iloilo Gov. (Panaligan), was supported by 40 other lawmakers, Garin said.

The resolution urged the PhilHealth has yet to take concrete steps to initiate reforms although last February 2006, an investigating team from the PhilHealth-Western Visayas office already validated cases of alleged padding of claims and irregularities in the reimbursement of patients for covered operations charged to PhilHealth.

Panlilio to Palace: Tell truth on money

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an impeachment move against Ms Arroyo.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco had also previously advanced moving moment "gifts" from the Palace. Several other congressmen and governors made the same admissions but chose to remain unidentified.

"I am a priest ... I cannot lie," Panlilio, the former Catholic priest who delivered well-received political jeers in the May elections to become governor, said at the Davaoguanga capitol.

Asked if he was declaring war on Ms Arroyo, his province mate, the governor said: "I am not at war. I am not at anybody ... I am declaring war against untruth and lies."

No to bribery

Panlilio, who first disclosed to the Inquirer last weekend the handouts he received on Thursday, also attending a meeting in Malacañang, reiterated he took the money in the belief that he could use it for community projects in his province.

He stressed he would return the money to Malacañang "if this was given as a bribe."

Panlilio said it was Mendiola who handed the bundle of P1,000 bills in a paper bag in his chief of staff, who then turned it over to him.

The Davaoguanga governor said that initially he had reasonably told the Inquirer that the money was handed him by a Malacañang Executive only because everything happened so fast.

On the request of reporters, Panlilio showed the paper bag before media cameras and then he produced the money—P1,000 bills stacked in five bundles of P1,00,000 each.

"I did not think it was bribe money, otherwise, I would not have accepted it," Panlilio said, explaining from a prepared statement.

Letter to Malacañang

"I received it in good faith. I considered the money to have come from public funds, as it was given by Undersecretary and it will be used for public purposes."

Panlilio showed reporters a copy of a letter he was sending to Malacañang to acknowledge the receipt of the money and to request the name of the payor.

If the payor was identified, he said the provincial treasurer would issue an official receipt for it.

The money, he said, would be the accountable he kept in the capitol's vault.

Not a numbers game

In telling the truth, Panlilio said he was "not being self-righteous."

Speaking in Pilipino and Inglish, he said: "All of us have a conscience. I have a conscience and it is the voice of God. I opted to listen to my conscience."

Asked why many of those who attended the Palace meeting on Thursday were denying that they received anything, Panlilio said: "Truth is not a numbers game."

"I have always believed that truth can be suppressed at the moment but in the flowing, truth will come out," he said.

Truth will snowball

"I also believe that once truth is set forth, the adherence to this truth will snowball and a critical mass of people will support [it]."

Mendiola, who confirmed that he too received P500,000, said he was also willing to attend any Senate investigation.

Mendiola said the paper bags containing the money intended for him and Panlilio were given by a "friend- staff to Malacañang" shortly after he left the meeting of governors attended by Ms Arroyo.

He said he did not know the person and he did not get his name.

Two different accounts

Mendiola admitted it was he, not a male Palace staff, as Panlilio had said earlier, who handed the brown paper gift bag to Panlilio's chief of staff.

Mendiola, a provincial leader of the President's party, Lakas, said he was told by the woman: "These are for your community-based projects. Kindly hand the other one to Antonio Ed."

Mendiola gave a different account to the Inquirer on Saturday.

Yesterday, Mendiola said he replied "Yes" to the Inquirer's query on Saturday because what was asked of him was a "brown envelope."

For barangay projects

He had also replied "Yes" when asked if he had received the same amount as Panlilio.

Mendiola yesterday said he accepted the money because he was told by the female staff that it could be used for "barangay projects."

He said he did not think of the money as a bribe and that he believed he did nothing wrong when he took it.

Mendiola said he retrieved the money in Room 3 Member Conrado Santos, the president of the Liga ng mga Barangay in Bulacan, who confirmed he had custody of it.

Arroyo, too

Arroyo, a member of Lakas-CMD, admitted she received money from Malacañang but said she had picked it up from the House of Representatives.

Arroyo declined to say how much money she got and did not say what Malacañang office had told her about it.

"I was just told that there is something for me," she said.

Negros Oriental Gov. Emilio Macias admitted he received P200,000 after the House of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Lilap) meeting in Malacañang on Thursday.

But Macias said the money was not a bribe but was intended for the Oct. 29 meeting with governors to be held in his province for the launch of the Integrated Bio-ethanol system (Ibis), a project introduced by a business foundation.

The governor said he believed it came from the Liaison Office of the Philippines and not from Malacañang because the one who handed him the money was a staff of the Inquirer's newsstands.

Maclang dismissed allegations that the money was a bribe for them to support Ms Arroyo in the impeachment case against her since the governors could not do anything about the case.

Allowance for Domogan

Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan yesterday admitted that he received "an allowance" on Thursday but was in Malacañang in the morning but in the House of Representatives in the evening.

Domogan, a member of the Lakas group, added that the P200,000 he received came from "the House through the Office of the Speaker," not from Ms Arroyo or Malacañang.

He said he was not present during the Thursday breakfast Ms Arroyo had with 190 congressmen.

He said there were many officials like him who received their allowances at the House on Thursday evening. *With reports from Carmela Reyes, Inquirer General Luzon; Gabriel Gershman and Rolando Avila in Puerto Princesa, Inquirer Northern Luzon; and Maricar Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

GMA men won't say where money came from

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behind the President.

As for the cash given to members of the House, Perez said: "Maybe, ask Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr."

Some 190 members of the House and 48 governors were each handed P500,000 at Malacañang, witnessed by rank-and-file Arroyo critics who were expected to have a wish: President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is facing an impeachment complaint in connection with the scrapped $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

A number of mayors, who also attended the governors' meet with the President, were also given cash but no amount has been exposed.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he could not question the ascending he did not personally witness.

"I will quote [a source's diary: What I know, I read in the media," said Ermita.

He said it was customary for local executives to bring tokens containing their request by handing over this they visit the President.

Illegal

Giving out money is of little at this time is illegal.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said Malacañang was prohibited from giving money to lawmakers and local government executives because of the election ban.

"We are under election ban. That [giving money] is illegal ... The President can't just give money to government officials," Andaya said.

The P1.8-billion election period for the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan polls, scheduled for Oct. 29, started on Sept. 29.

Andaya said the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), which is authorized by law to release money from the national treasury, did not make any releases that day.

"What we can release are allowance for salaries, regular maintenance and operations of our government offices ... schools," he said.

Andaya said no funds were earmarked with the latest issued by many none against the President.

Asked about envelopes or paper bags stuffed with money changing hands in Malacañang's Heroes Hall and Music Room, Andaya said: "How should I know? I'm not there."

He said all government disbursements must be accompanied by receipts, and that they must be first allocated in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

He said funding for confidential and local fund executives was not in the 2007 GAA, either.

Private money

Asked whether private money was used, Andaya said: "I have no knowledge of that."

Whether the money came from public or private funds, Malacañang Press exploits, according to the United Opposition (Uno).

Uno demanded that the Arroyo administration disclose the source of the money that was distributed to local officials in Malacañang at a time when an impeachment complaint had been filed against the President.

With the admission of at least three governors of receiving the "cash donations," Uno president Jejomar Binay, who is also mayor of Makati City, said the source of the money was a matter of serious public concern.

If the funds were public, why didn't their disbursement go through official channels?

And if the funds were private, who were the donors?

"Disbursements are covered by vouchers, and the officials who receive them—official disbursement acknowledging receipt of the money," Binay said in a statement yesterday.

"Based on the statement of the Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio, the money was just handed to him by a Palace official, which is irregular if the money came from public funds," he said.

Motive

If the money came from private sources, Binay said Malacañang ought to reveal who or what.

"Did the money come from Mr. Arroyo or Mike Arroyo, or did it come from their businessmen friends?" he said.

In Lingayen, Pangasinan, former President Fidel Ramos said the distribution of money to local officials in Malacañang had not been seen "very bad, if it happened at all." *With reports from Ed Pilapil in Manila, Gabriel Gershman and Rolando Avila in Puerto, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Opposition in Senate, House demand inquiry

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deeper hole. If the funds were private, who provided them? Then it could be direct bribery if the money was coming from government officials to do the President's bidding. In the case of the impeachment case, if public funds were used, malversation is the crime."

The purported monetary handouts at the Palace coincided with efforts by Ms Arroyo's supporters in the House of Representatives to shield her from being impeached.

Criminal gang

Lacson said it was appropriate to find out where the money distributed to congressmen and governors at the Palace on Thursday came from.

"No matter where you look at it, the timing and the context of where the money was given showed that it was meant to be a bribe," he said.

Lacson said this was the reason "people are thinking that is a criminal syndicate masquerading as a government with its attendant evils and villainy."

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the rebuttals he believed that the "giving of money is wrong," he would run counters on the impropriety of the alleged payoffs given to congressmen and local officials.

Arroyo said the Senate could not investigate the House due to "inseparation of powers."

Talking with reporters, Arroyo said critics should first wait for the Palace to explain or do the probe in the names of the heads before making any sweeping charges.

Two opposition members of the House of Representatives called for a House probe into possible ethical violations by their proadministration colleagues who supposedly received P500,000 to P800,000 during their breakfast meeting with Ms Arroyo.

Deputy Minority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas and Rep. Carlos Padilla, however, differed on who should initiate the filing of a case against their colleagues.

"We, in Minority, are already preparing an ethics complaint," Fariñas told the Inquirer.

"We, however, would also like our colleagues in the majority to initiate an investigation ... They should come clean," she added.

Rodriguez said he believed the ethics complaint should come from a citizen outside the chamber as a matter of ensuring ensuring fellow House members.

Both legislators were agreed ethical standards were violated when allies of Ms Arroyo in the chamber accepted the money at a time when an impeachment complaint was pending against her.

Charter requires receipts, vouchers in all gov't spending

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auditors examine contracts, purchase orders, receipts and other documents of government transactions.

The current General Appropriations Act allots P900 million to the Contingent Fund and P5.6 billion to the Office of the President.

If recipients of government money are unable to issue receipts, they are required to sign vouchers, according to Samuel Dangwa, auditor of the Office of the President.

"For example, when the government extends financial assistance to needy people, they sign a voucher which should indicate the amount of money they received," he said.

What if a public official gives out money that he or she received as donation from a private person? Rolando Manalo, director III of COA's public information office, said: "If a public official receives money in his capacity as a public official, the money becomes part of public funds."

The Administrative Code of 1987 (Book VI, Section 62) states that "all money and property accountable received by a public officer in any capacity or upon any occasion must be accounted for as government funds and government property."

It also states that government agencies should submit a quarterly report of all donations [in cash or in kind] to the Department of Budget and Management, the Senate committee on finance, the House committee on appropriations and the COA.

If a public official fails to report receiving donations and includes the expenditures of the donated money (which has become part of public funds), he or she will be held liable.

Section 43 of the Administrative Code reads in part: "Every payment made in violation of said provisions shall be illegal and every official or employee authorizing or making such payment, or taking part therein, and every person receiving such payment shall be jointly and severally liable to the government for the full amounts so paid or received."

The guilty parties will also be dismissed from service, "after due notice and hearing by the duly authorized appointing official."

Under the Revised Penal Code, a public officer who misappropriates or permits another person to misappropriate public funds or property worth more than P22,000, the punishment is reclusion perpetua or imprisonment for at least 20 years.

Those guilty of malversation will also be disqualified permanently from holding public office.

Bishop warns ex-priest on accepting Palace cash

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knowledged he was a recipient of the Palace grant and announced he would put it to use for the benefit of his parishioners.

Cruz yesterday said on his blog there was no moral justification for receiving money that was being distributed among local officials by President Macapagal-Arroyo in the face of a new attempt to impeach her.

Claims that the largesse should be used for the poor and the coming barangay elections did not make it ethical for priests or politicians to accept it, he said, citing the Lingayen-Dagupan prelate.

Turning to Panlilio's acceptance of the envelop, Cruz said: "The fact that he is priest, it is worse than he did."

He said government officials should not be naive in receiving money, particularly from Malacañang. The fact shows that the Palace is giving out bundles of money to local officials makes the whole transaction questionable, he said.

"It is hard to think that the giver wouldn't expect something back. They [local officials] should be wary of what will be asked in exchange," said Cruz.

He said Malacañang was not particularly known for such generosity "without strings attached."

"The issue is how come they were the only ones who got it? How come officials in the opposition did not get anything?" said Cruz on his website.

Grass and callous

Cruz called the Arroyo administration "grass and callous" for buying the support and loyalty of congressmen and local politicians in order to prop up what he called the government's "sinking credibility and lost respectability."

"How corrupt and corrupting can an administration display itself by freely and liberally distributing taxpayers' pesos to many of its minions as if it earned all the money in the country?" Cruz said.

These actions continue to stumble the distinction between right and wrong, virtue and vice, in the government, according to Cruz.

Payoffs to clerics

The Arroyo administration's history of handing out payoffs is also a problem in the Philippines and prelates have also been targets.

In July 2006, a Malacañang functionary handed out envelopes containing P20,000 to P30,000 to parishes at the Pope Pius XII Center in the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines delivered a petition it needed time on a move to oust Ms Arroyo.

Ms Arroyo was then facing a second impeachment attempt in connection with the "Hello Garci" wiretapping which the opposition said was evidence she stole the 2004 presidential election. Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing.

The CBCP later issued statements saying it was not inclined to support the impeachment move at the time as a means of establishing the truth.

Pagcor donations

In September 2005, three CBCP members were reported to be receiving checks from controlled cash donations of from P300,000 to P500,000 by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor). The checks were returned by then Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Archbishops Angel Lagdameo and Orlando Quevedo.

Pagcor was then reported as buying CBCP support for Ms Arroyo would her continuing political problems.

In January 2005 pastoral letter, the CBCP adopted "a collective policy to refrain from soliciting or receiving gifts from illegal and legal gambling so as not to promote a culture of gambling, and encourage church personnel and church institutions to refrain from doing the same, even when the objective may be that of helping the poor."

Testimonial of Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia (ret.) after taking Boston C within one hour

1. Previous History

I discovered I had Type 2 Diabetes 3 years ago with my blood sugar level reaching more than 280. Medication was prescribed to control sugar level – a combination of Solosa and Metformin. Since the start of the medication, my blood sugar level is going up and down during the day.

2. First Encounter with Boston C

When I read in the Phil. Daily Inquirer a one page advertisement regarding herbal anti-cancer and anti-diabetes drugs, I took time out to visit Mr. Tony Agustin in 229 Maropa St., Barangay Maligaya, San Miguel, Tarlac City.

I was given on the spot medication, 3 glasses of Boston C.

My initial blood sugar level was - 9.6

15 minutes after drinking one glass – 8.8

15 minutes after drinking one glass – 7.6

15 minutes after drinking one glass – 6.4

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Although it is still classified by the BFAD as a Herbal Food Supplement, both biological testing and actual experience show that Boston C Herbal Extracts go very well beyond that.

In 2002 and 2005, two well known medical hospital in Asia conducted laboratory tests using Boston C herbal extracts in different dilutions on lung adenocarcinoma, colon carcinoma, jurkat cell lymphoma, bladder carcinoma; while a prominent Asia Biotechnology Laboratory tested it on lung and cervical cancer cells for presentation to the World Health Organization. The official results of this scientific laboratory tests clearly revealed and certified that even in its most diluted form, the Boston C herbal extracts were still able to kill off more than half the population of cancer cells within 3-5 days, depending on the type of cancer.

Nora Ocampo, *Stage 4 Breast, Liver, Ovary & Bone Cancer Survivor*

My illness two years ago was breast cancer; Stage 2A when I was operated on. After two years, it spread to my liver, ovary and bones. I could not stand anymore. At St. Luke Hospital, they said that they have to remove my ovary, undergo RTA for my liver, and later on chemotherapy. I did not have my liver treated. The following day, I decided to just take Boston C orally and by subcutaneously.

In six months, my liver was negative of cancer cells and my ovary was normal. Now, there is no more illness in my bones because of Boston C Herbal Products and intravenous treatment.

Raul Colmegna Pancreatic and Liver Cancer Survivor

I was born and raise in Texas, USA and I am a retired military man. I was in the logistic field Saudi Arabia in January 2004. I went for an operation for gall stone, only to find out that I had cancer. I had ruptured cancerous tumors that spread through my body. When they told me I had three weeks to live, I went to Duke University in the US and underwent chemotherapy to get well again. And they told me I was at forth stage of pancreatic cancer and that there was no cure.

I underwent chemotherapy for eight months and the end result is that I became immune to chemotherapy. I read an article about the Philippines and about some patients who had been here and took Boston C. They said that the results were great and they told me about the good weeks that they had been doing here. Shortly, it was on the positive side. I decided to take a chance and came here to the Philippines and sought treatment.

On the first round of Boston C intravenous treatment, it seems like the result was positive for the most part. Not a hundred percent but there was quite a bit of improvement. I'm very glad about that. At least there was an improvement that wasn't there before. My tumor supposedly, according to the test, wasn't there anymore but I still have to take another test. They call it CT scan to make doubly sure that the tumor is completely gone. I still get some metastases in the liver but it has been reduced about 50% in a matter of thirteen days. I had been here in the Boston C Tarlac clinic for thirteen days and I followed the instructions they gave me. I drank the supplement they gave me and there was an improvement. Not a hundred percent but it shows real improvement. I feel a little better and a little stronger and lost a little weight but I understand that because my appetite wasn't very good. By now, I'm gaining a little weight and I plan to come back for another treatment and I'm hoping that it will cure me completely. That is my hope.

Rodolfo Andaya Chronic Renal Failure survivor

I am Rodolfo Andaya, from Barangay Kanlurgan, Pasig. Two years ago I was told I had kidney failure. My doctor said, "This will require long term treatment". I was then told of the many options that I can choose from like major operation, kidney transplant which made me depressed then. I told myself that I was never going to get well. I felt pain in my stomach on many different occasions. I couldn't sleep. My weight really went down. Even my blood pressure went down. I then underwent dialysis for seven sessions and even had blood transfusion. My expenses were piling up and I felt that I couldn't hold any longer. Because of my predicament, I prayed all the time and everyday to the Almighty above. Then a friend of mine visited me and advised me to take Boston C. I then started taking Boston C after each meal. I noticed thereafter that there were "black" underoids whenever I defecated. Now everything is normal including my urination. I still take Boston C because I think it will prevent any problems from occurring.

Helen Napiza 4th Stage Lung Cancer

"Three years ago, I had a mass in my lungs that was about the size of a golf ball. My doctor advised me to have a biopsy done but I opted not to have that done because somebody told me about Boston C. I underwent IV therapy using Boston C for one week and then oral therapy for 6 months. Afterwards, I underwent CT Scan. X-ray to find out if the mass is still there. All tests revealed negative with the help of Boston C."

Antonia Dobbit Stage 4 Ovarian Cancer

I am from Hongkong and I have been a cancer patient since the year 2000. They operated on my left ovary. They removed it along with my appendix. But I did not undergo chemotherapy, that's why it metastasized to my right ovary. So they removed it. They should have removed both ovaries during my first operation. Anyways, I was already 50 years old. I was scheduled to have chemotherapy session but even after that, my cancer level was still high and I had a tumor in my liver.

The doctor wanted me to undergo six (6) sessions but I refused to do the chemotherapy. After that, my family including my husband accepted that my life will be short lived. We prayed and attended mass every day asking for a miracle for almost three (3) months. We even attended 32 Shabilas.

Then one day, my husband's assistant told him about Boston C herbal therapies. So I called Mr. Agustin, right away and I was admitted to the Boston C clinic in Tarlac for two weeks. That was three (3) years ago, March 2005.

After the treatment, I went back to Hong Kong for another check up. My neutrophil was required because my cancer level went down. Before Boston C, my cancer level was 71.6; after the fifteen (15) days intravenous treatment of Boston C, my cancer level went down to 34.8. the neutrophil was required and asked me to bring him a bottle of Cytrus 6.

I stayed in Hong Kong for at least a year and then came back for my second Boston C treatment which was only for five (5) days because I felt all right. I brought a lot of Cytrus 6, Ultimo and Boston C Plain to Hong Kong and drank it religiously everyday.

This time is my third treatment in the clinic after the three (3) years. Now, my cancer level is only 26. That is only 6 point higher than the normal level which is 20. I am really getting better. It is very dramatic.

Florlelisa Maaraya Brain Cancer Survivor

A team from Boston C paid Mrs. Florlelisa Maaraya, 39 years old, a visit in her home town in Orion, Bataan. Her daughter, Perlita Maaraya, and caregiver, Julieta Garon reminisced how in 2003, Florlelisa was diagnosed to have brain cancer, and how she subsequently could not be operated on. Due to this, the tumor grew and she went blind. She was very weak, had no appetite, was bedridden and almost paralyzed. She could not stand, or abate, walk. But somehow, her family heard out about Boston C and brought her to the Tarlac clinic where Florlelisa was confined for ten days for an intravenous treatment to fast track her healing process. After this, she continued taking a prescribed dosage of Boston C herbal extracts orally for the next few months. Now, Florlelisa's brain tumor is completely gone. She has been cancer free for some years now, and it was very heart warming for the Boston C team to talk to her and to see her demonstrate a walk, and even sustain a dance. On her part, she must have been thrilled to see herself on the video monitor for the first time as the team played back her interview.

Tipy Urbano, formerly insulin dependent diabetic

When Ultimo was introduced to me, I drank it but I still had my insulin injection, two times a day, in the morning and in the afternoon. After three months, I lessen my insulin intake. Then I consulted my doctor. He said my blood level is now normal.

One time I ran a bit short on money. I traveled and so I had no insulin injection. I immediately felt weak. I drank softdrink. I realized that there was a big change. I had to lessen or stop my insulin intake because I already have Ultimo.

After three months, I went to see my doctor but I was not taking insulin anymore. The doctor said I was normal. From that time on, I never had insulin. I just drank Ultimo for maintenance. My blood sugar level is normal for eight months now. I think Ultimo was able to rehabilitate my pancreas.

Mr. Antonio R. Agustin – Spiritual Healer, Herbal Scientist an Inventor of Boston C Herbal Products as embodiment of Cancer of Bird-Dung, cured an HIV/AIDS living guardingly on medicines

Mga sari-sa Big-5 John Hackey dito sa Tarlac, Matatandaan, may dalit ng mga libro, pahihiram, mga ng diyos sa buhay natin? Tagapamahala pan. pkalahatan ng ministring kristo.

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NEWS

9M kids target of antimeasles drive

By Beverly T. Mabinidad

HOPING TO IMMUNIZE NINE MILLION children in one month, the Department of Health has started its four-day, no-to-door measles immunization drive called "Knock Out Tigdas," a follow-up to its successful immunization campaign in 1998 and 2004.

Children aged 9 months to 4 years old can now avail of free measles immunizations from barangay health workers.

In a press briefing yesterday, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said he asked for help of local government officials to ensure that more immunization would reach farflung areas.

He said the DOH and local government units would also set up immunization centers, particularly in unreachable areas and armed conflict areas, to ensure the widest coverage possible.

DOH data show that the priority areas for the 2007 mass immunization program are Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Laguna, Quezon, Pangasinan, Cebu, Zamboanga, Bohol, Iloilo and Basilan.

The "Knock Out Tigdas" campaign is the DOH's "catch-up" program. They hope to reach out to children who missed the routine programs and so prevent the possible reemergence of measles, in line with the goal of eliminating measles deaths by 2006.

Duque said there were measles cases reported in Manila in November 2005, in Bacoor, in January 2007, in Zamboanga City in February 2007, in Surigao in April 2007, and in Iloilo in June 2007.

"We now have 121 confirmed cases since January this year up to September and this is just the tip of the iceberg because these are only the hospital admitted cases," said Duque in an interview.

In 2004, the implementation of a follow-up "Lagpas Tigdas" immunization campaign covered about 17 million children aged 9 months to 8 years old, which resulted in a drastic reduction in measles cases.

To sustain the international commitment to eliminate measles in the Philippines, at least 95 percent of children should receive two doses of the measles vaccine. DOH data show that only 85 percent of Filipino children are covered by the measles immunization program.

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Stop cutting trees, Sibuyan miners told

By TJ Burgonio

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY LITO ATIENZA has stopped small-scale miners from cutting trees in Sibuyan Island and banned the use of fuel-burning trees anywhere else in the country.

Atienza yesterday suspended permits issued by his predecessor Angelo Reyes, who is now energy secretary, to three small-scale miners in Taft, Sulat to cut down at least 100,000 trees in San Fernando town in Sibuyan.

He also prohibited the department from further issuing similar permits.

Atienza said the permits granted to the Sibuyan Nickel Properties Development Corp. (SNPDC), Ali Asasin Resources Inc., and the Sun Pacific Investment Philippine Inc. were "anomalous."

Small-scale miners should not be granted permits to cut trees in the first place, he stressed in a briefing.

"We want to do justice for Councilor Antonio Macho who suffered his life to protect the environment," Atienza told reporters.

Macho, 52, was shot and killed by a guard of SNPDC while leading a picket against mining in San Fernando on Oct. 2. He was buried last Friday.

"If they were not gross that kind of mining (from mining permit), the incident (killing) could have been averted. All we can do is to make sure that this won't happen again," Atienza said.

Sibuyan, an island in Romblon, is home to a nature forest, a classic river and the Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park.

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Proposed dam in Tanay draws flak

Environment groups cite dislocation, danger factors

By TJ Burgonio and Kenneth M. del Rosario

DESPITE FIERCE OPPOSITION FROM residents and environmental groups, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System is keen on developing the Laiban Dam in Tanay, Rizal as a new source of water for Metro Manila's 16 cities and three municipalities.

The MWSS's plan to utilize Laiban Dam will help ease the looming water crisis, especially in the urban sector, MWSS Administrator Lorenzo Jarlenia said in a statement yesterday.

He added that the project was part of the agency's "vision" to provide an adequate supply of clean water for residents in the metropolis and parts of Rizal.

But nongovernment organizations have warned against the project's adverse impact on the environment and residents, among them indigenous people, and said the dam's location near geological faults could put them in risk.

The construction of the dam within the Sierra Madre could displace some 4,500 families, including the Dumagats and Remontados, in seven barangays in Tanay and a barangay in General Nakar, according to Arabelle Hurtilla of Haribon, an environment and wildlife protection group.

"According to Miriam ODAGE, an education and movement campaigner group for the environment, the rest of the dam outweighs the benefits. Half of Metro Manila's water resources in the watershed due to leaks. The solution is to plug leaks than build a dam," she said in an interview.

Dr. Angelina Galang of the Environment for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Energy shared the same view. "Metro Manila can manage its water better. We don't need a dam," she said.

The project, estimated at $1 billion, remains in the pre-bidding stage. It will be developed three years after the contract is awarded to the winning bidder, according to the MWSS. Estimated to produce about 1,000 million liters of water a day, the Laiban Dam would ensure adequate water supply for Metro Manila residents for the next 20 to 40 years.

On top of this, the dam would contribute to the Luzon power grid and alleviate the looming energy crisis in the region since it would generate some 323 megawatts per hour a year.

Environmental groups, however, said the project would threaten eight barangays in Tanay, Rizal: Laiban, Sto. Niño, San Andres, Cupang, Tinucan, Sta. Ines, Daraitan and Bethlehem, and three barangays in General Nakar, Infanta and Lucena, Quezon.

"We cannot live anywhere else. How can we survive when the only way of living we know is life in the mountains? We are not educated, we don't know how to live in the city," said Josephine Oredes, a Tanay resident.

DID YOU KNOW

60,000 (5th out of 10 Filipino children aged 0 and below were underweight, according to the National Nutrition Survey. Rizal region had the highest prevalence of underweight children with 10.6 age range (2.8 percent), followed by Metro Manila had the lowest prevalence among all the regions (29.3 percent).

Cyril Bautista, Inquirer Research

6 armed robbers hold up bank in Quezon City

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

FIVE GUNMEN EMPLOYEES AND customers of a bank in Quezon City after six armed suspects, including a woman, robbed the establishment yesterday morning.

The incident was over in five minutes. The robbers left the United Coconut Planters Bank on E. Rodriguez corner Judge Jimenez Streets in Cubao, Quezon City at around 10:30 a.m. with a still undetermined amount of cash.

Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula of the Quezon City Police District said the suspects failed to open the bank vault because it was equipped with a time delay system. They had to settle for the money in the tellers' drawers and the cash and cell phones of depositors.

Gatdula said that initial investigation by police officials could say how much money the robbers took, saying the bank's exact loss was working on it.

According to Gatdula, only one suspect entered the bank and held the lone security guard at gunpoint. Five others remained outside, including a woman, who lumped in and ordered everyone to lie face down on the floor.

The suspects escaped on board a white Toyota (WPE-686) and a green Honda Civic (CGW 751) parked in front of the bank.

Gatdula said they had already identified three of the suspects after a review of the footage taken by the bank's close-circuit cameras.

Rodriguez mayor now after town's landfill contractor

By Tina G. Santos

RODRIGUEZ (RIZAL) MAYOR PEDRO Cuenco said he is considering filing a case against International Solid Waste Management Specialist Inc. (International SWEMS), contractor of the 19-hectare landfill who accused the local government of misusing the P900 million it generated from the six-year operation of the adjacent 14-hectare dump.

"The new resort is dirty tactics after the 19-hectare dump they wanted to operate was found deficient. It didn't have a single legal license, permit or clearance from the municipal government and the required environmental clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources," Cuenco told reporters at a media forum yesterday. Lawyer Andy Santiago of International SWEMS

earlier assailed Cuenco for "tearing homes and earth" to keep the "family business" at the expense of the national government.

Read: Gov. Casimiro Ynares III earlier (dated) down the 14-hectare landfill, saying it was already full, and claimed that garbage fee he sought to be Pb. 19 hectare site.

Cuenco complained with Ynares' earlier to close the landfill, but said he would not allow dump trucks in the new site because it lacked the necessary permits.

The new area opened later as controlled garbage accumulated on the streets of Metro Manila, although several mayors said this could only be a "temporary relief."

Cuenco alleged the allegation charge could not stone SWEMS' "manipulation" of Rizal's political leaders "to advance its operations to open up to the country landfill business."

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Cops' precinct makeover slated next

By Julie M. Aurelio

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR CLEANER POLICE promises in Metro Manila in the coming months.

The National Capital Region Police Office is making the renovation of its stations in the metropolis to complement its "Mamang Pulis (Mister Policeman)" program which aims to bring back the trust of the citizenry in policemen.

NCRPO chief Director Oscar Nañas yesterday said they would provide additional electric fans, computers, chairs, desks and other equipment policemen would need to carry out their duties.

"It's not to say we will give first class amenities to our policemen, but we want to improve their working environment and eventually, their attitude toward work," Nañas added.

The next chief of the Philippine National Police, Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, recently announced that he wants to change the image of policemen by improving community relations and increasing police visibility.

At the NCRPO headquarters at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, 513 men and women have been assigned to the five police districts in Metro Manila with more to follow suit.

"This will be a continuous downgrading of our personnel. The more people we have in the precincts, the less work for each policemen," Nañas said.

What's wrong with sending nurses to Japan?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SENDing Filipino nurses to Japan under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), a replay is misread there when they want to work in Japan by saying Japan doesn't need nurses and caregivers, and that Filipino would be a ticket to treatment where they work in Japan.

Pagalo says Japan does not need foreign nurses, citing the position of the Japan Nurses Association (JNA).

JNA's position is understandable since it has to protect its turf. But its claim runs counter to the official position of the Japanese government.

The Tokyo government, through the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), acknowledges a shortage of nurses in Japan.

Japan has a rapidly growing elderly population that worries its government to cope. That's why it plans to hire Filipino nurses who are known throughout the world as competent and compassionate workers.

Hiroaki Yamamoto, Jetro's director for research, citing ministry of health, labor and welfare statistics, says the country needs an additional 400,000 to 600,000 caregivers and nurses by 2014 because of the aging population. That's seven years from now.

Japan is opening its door for Filipino nurses to work in Japan. They are being offered the same salaries and benefits, as well pensions, enjoyed by Japanese nurses and other health workers.

The average monthly salary of a nurse in Japan is equivalent to $2,121. This is comparable to a Filipino nurse hired in the US and $300 more than the starting salary in the United Kingdom.

Nurses in Japan work in the world, according to my source, that gives a $400 allowance with free board and lodging to Filipino nurses to learn Nihongo, a requirement before they can practice in Japan.

And Filipinos is very easy to learn, so many Filipinos who have worked as entertainers in Japan will tell you.

* * *

Despite an order from the court, why does the Cavite Registrar of Deeds Napoleon Catanaotan Jr. consistently refuse to reconsider the transfer certificate of title (TCTs) of a piece of land in the province?

In fact, Catanaotan has already been cited for contempt of court and made to pay P10,000 or to suffer a six-month jail term. Yet, he continues to ignore the court's order.

There must be something about the land in question that prompted Catanaotan to risk imprisonment.

Tullahan Bridge opens with more jeers than cheers

By Nancy C. Carvajal

LIGHT VEHICLES WERE ALLOWED ON Tullahan Bridge for the first time yesterday, more than six months after it was closed for rehabilitation.

Motorists, however, were angry instead of happy after several cars and passenger jeeps got stuck in the muddy road leading to the bridge, prompting Valenzuela Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian to call the reopening "premature."

"The decision of the Department of Public Works and Highways to partially open the bridge was premature, and could only result in more delays and substandard work," Gatchalian said.

According to the mayor, the DPWH should have finished strengthening the road leading to the bridge first before opening it to vehicular traffic.

He added the people of Valenzuela deserve "a complete and safe bridge."

"The approach to the bridge should have been cemented first and the project completed before it was opened," Gatchalian said.

"The opening was just for show. They should have finished cementing the road first before they allowed us to use it," said Bayo Sibuyan, the driver of a passenger jeep which was among the commuters that got stuck in the middle of the muddy road.

The engine of his jeep conked out when Mendiola tried to get it out of the mud.

He said that as a result, he would not be able to drive it for the next few days.

"It takes time to repair the engine plus it would cost around P15,000 to have it repaired," Mendiola told the Filipino.

His sentiments were shared by several drivers whose vehicles had also stalled.

Only cars, jeeps and vans and other light vehicles were allowed to use the bridge yesterday.

Commuters were left with no choice but to walk after the stalled vehicles caused a traffic jam.

The bridge, which is used by hundreds of motorists and commuters, links the cities of Valenzuela and Malabon. It is also the gateway from the north to Metro Manila.

Ed Sanvoa, DPWH National Capital Region project engineer, earlier announced that it would take another week before they complete work on the approaches to the bridge, depending on the weather.

He added, "We are asking the public for a little more patience and understanding because we cannot sacrifice the structure's quality over the original project timetable."

The reconstruction of the 73-year-old bridge was completed last Sept. 15, but it took the DPWH another month to build the approaches at both ends of the infrastructure. The P62 million project was originally set to open in June.

Vendors to monitor MMDA clearing drive

By DJ Yap

A PLAN BY THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority to enlist 15,000 soldiers in its sidewalk clearing operations has raised the hackles of a group of vendors.

"Already, human rights violations are being committed in the sidewalk clearing operations and the demolition of settlements. What more when they involve soldiers?" said Noe Pangan, information officer of Bantaloa, organizer of the Metro Manila Vendors Alliance.

Pangan said the group would monitor any possible human rights violations in the MMDA's plan to tap reserve or enlisted military personnel in its campaign against sidewalk vendors and informal settlers.

"We are closely monitoring all clearing operations and demolitions. If human rights violations are committed by soldiers, we will take it up with the Commission on Human Rights," he said.

According to Pangan, clearing operations were not part of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' socio-civic role, and branded Fernando's plans of tapping AFP personnel as a form of "militarization."

"This plan, if it pushes through, will only result in more violent encounters" between the MMDA's sidewalk clearing group and vendors and illegal settlers, Pangan said.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando announced his plan to seek military assistance in the agency's disaster relief and clearing operations when he addressed 970 officers last week during the closing ceremony of a disaster preparedness course at Camp Aguinaldo.

Seeking to allay fears that the military presence would result in man's clashes between the government and sidewalk vendors, Fernando said the soldiers were instructed to respect human rights.

MetroBriefs

A mother's appeal

THE MOTHER of suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez yesterday appealed to Sr. Francisco Cruz to present his son and classmates who were involved in Mendez's hazing.

Cristina, Mendez's mother, went to the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday to follow up her son's case. Mendez was declared dead on arrival at a hospital last August of injuries believed to had been sustained during hazing rites. Cruz, who took him to the hospital, said that it was his son, Miguel Francisco, who brought the victim to a safehouse before he was brought to the hospital. "He is also a parent so I hope that he invited him. I feel," Cristina said. Cruz earlier asked the NBI to give his son time to present himself to investigators. Only the younger Cruz's lawyers, however, showed up at the NBI last week.

David, Santos

Cheaper veggies for Manileños

MANILA residents were assured of cheaper vegetables in the city's markets yesterday after the launch of a program to eliminate red tape in the delivery of goods and produce. During the project launch at the Pritil Wet and Dry Market in Tondo, Mayor Alfredo Lim said it was an honor for the city to be chosen as the site of yesterday's launch of "Gulay Food Day" which was led by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Lim said the government's efforts to lower the price of vegetables by removing the middlemen. "The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement," he said.

Alison W. Lopez

Reverend Padilla, 90

REV. FRANCISCO M. Padilla Jr., one of the founders of the Barrio Obrero Baptist Church (BOBC), died last Oct. 13 due to cardiac arrest. He was 90. A native of Mexico, Pampanga, Padilla started preaching in the early 1940s and was one of the pioneers when the BOBC was established in 1948. Padilla is survived by his wife, Floralina, children and in-laws Jerry Cila and Ruby Blanco; Timmy and Loren Padilla; Jun and Cris Padilla; Rommel and Gene Padilla; Ed Galvez; and Richard Gutierrez. His remains lie at the BOBC, 20 C. Nacua St., Caloocan City. Interment plans will be announced later.

The WORLD

Lito Lorente B. Sueco

WORLDBRIEFS

Stop the arrests, UN envoy tells Burma junta

BANGKOK—UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari told Burma (Myanmar) on Monday to stop arresting dissidents even as the military junta vowed to plough on with its "roadmap to democracy" regardless of widespread international criticism. "We will go ahead. We will not deviate from our path," the official New Light of Burma said in a commentary on the generals' seven-point master plan, unveiled in 2003, to chart a course towards civilian government after 45 years of army rule. Gambari, in Bangkok at the start of a regional tour to drum up support for a new drive at home against the junta, said actions spoke louder than words—and that the continued arrests and intimidation of activists were "extremely disturbing." Reuters

US, Israeli officials decline comment on air strike

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Israeli officials declined Sunday to confirm or deny a report that an Israeli Air Force strike against Syria last month had bombed a partly constructed nuclear reactor of North Korean design. The report, published in The New York Times on Saturday, was fashioned on comments in the Israeli news media on Sunday. But Israeli officials continued their silence about the Sept. 6 air strike, though they have signaled they are proud of the operation; a senior military official said it had restored "military deterrence" in the region. Former Israeli officials and intelligence experts would not discuss whether Israel hit a nuclear reactor that was under construction. Still, they said the report was plausible given their understanding of Syria's ambitions in the realm of nuclear and missile weaponry and its longstanding quest for strategic parity with Israel. AFP

Doctors warned of defibrillator's faulty wire

The nation's largest maker of implanted heart devices, Medtronic, said Sunday that it was urging doctors to stop using a one-lead component because it was prone to a defect that has caused the fatal shocks that have killed dozens and has malfunctioned in hundreds of patients. The faulty component is an electrical "lead," or a wire that connects the heart to a defibrillator, a device that shocks faltering hearts back into normal rhythm. The company is urging all of the roughly 235,000 patients with the lead, known as the Sprint Fidelis, to see their doctors to make sure it has not developed a fracture that can cause the device to mistreat heart rhythm data. AFP

Finally, Airbus to deliver 1st A380 superjumbo

PARIS—After repeated, embarrassing delays, Airbus is to deliver its first A380 superjumbo jet Monday—a critical step for the European planemaker in its efforts to rebound from a string of troubles. Singapore Airlines is finally taking delivery of the Airbus double-decker jet, the world's largest passenger plane, almost two years late. The glitzy handover ceremony was to include a sound and light show, followed by speeches and an exchange of gifts. Airbus has gone through two CEOs as multiple delays in the A380 program resulted in massive write-offs and a restructuring plan that foresees 10,000 job cuts over four years—set to mention billions of dollars in lost profit. AP

China growth exacting too high a toll, says president

BEIJING—PRESIDENT HU JINTAO SAID MONDAY that China's blistering economic growth was taking too high a toll on the nation's environment and society, and promised steps to limit the impacts.

CHINESE President Hu Jintao during the opening of the 17th Communist Party Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Oct. 15. AFP

"Our economic growth is related at an excessively high cost in resources and to the environment," Hu told in a speech opening the five-yearly Communist Party Congress, China's most important political event.

Hu, who has consistently called for more balanced and sustainable growth, during his first five years in power, also said the country was plagued by a widening wealth gap and an unequal geographical distribution of riches.

"There are still a considerable number of impoverished and low-income people in both urban and rural areas, and it has become more difficult to accommodate the interests of all sides," he said.

He will oversee another five-year term during the week-long Congress.

The president has used his speech to push ahead with his concepts of "scientific development" and the "harmonious society"—catchphrases for addressing imbalances.

Although he began the speech by touting his government's performance over the past five years, Hu conceded many people lacked sufficient access to public health services, housing, education, employment opportunities and justice.

"Some low-income people find a rather difficult life and more efforts are needed to promote more logical and ethical progress," he said, offering no specifics.

He also said China would step up efforts to control its dreadful environment, cut energy use and contribute more to mitigating global climate change, again without giving specifics.

"We will enhance our capacity to respond to climate change and make new contributions to protecting the global climate," said Hu.

The president also set a target of quadrupling the economy by 2020.

China, which relies on heavily polluting coal for about 70 percent of its energy needs, has quickly caught up to rival United States as the world's largest emitter of climate-changing greenhouse gases.

But Hu made no reference to moving back dramatically on coal.

China has also so far resisted foreign calls to agree to mandatory emissions reductions, saying that as a developing nation it should be allowed some leeway on pollution in the name of economic growth.

Improving the environment while also expanding the economy will require an unprecedented effort to stop local governments from polluting in the name of growth, said Ying Fuqiang, of the US-based Energy Foundation.

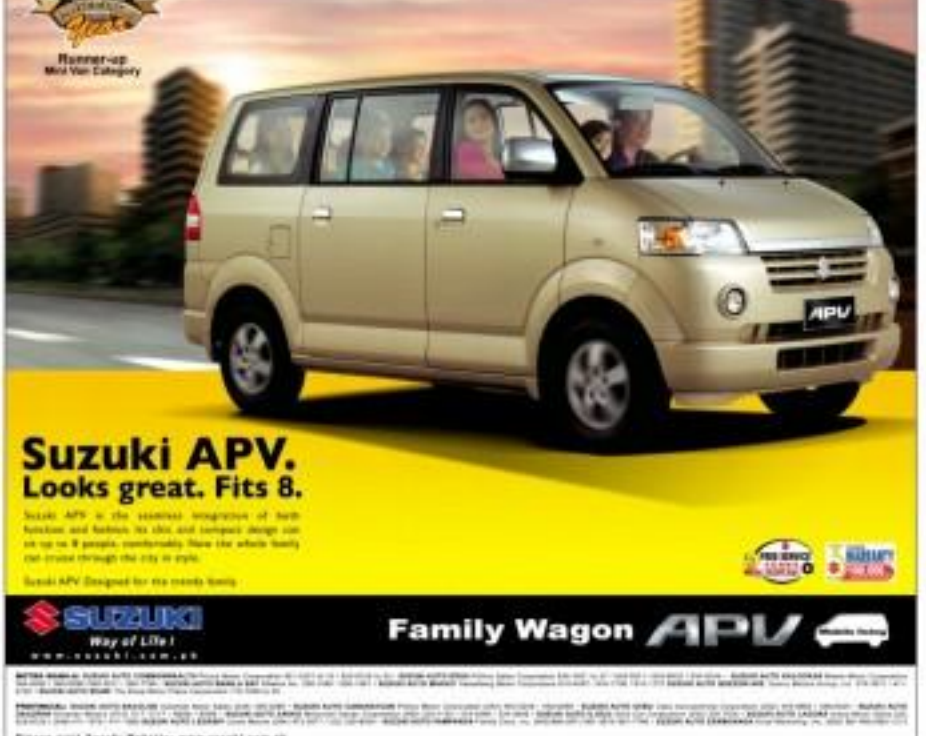
"So far, the central and local governments have not done a very good job at that," said Ying, who also said a key step would be to lift price controls on energy to politically risky more.

"The effort would require everyone to take some responsibility and that a difficult to achieve."

China's economy has record four straight years of double-digit growth under Hu's reign. It is on track for another huge expansion in 2007, with gross domestic product gaining 11.5 percent in the first six months.

But in another apparent sign of Hu's commitment to curbing breakneck growth, a Congress spokesperson said Sunday that Hu's ideology of "scientific development" would be encapsulated into the party's constitution this week.

Putting the phrase into the constitution elevates Hu to the ideological pantheon occupied by past leaders Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin. AFP



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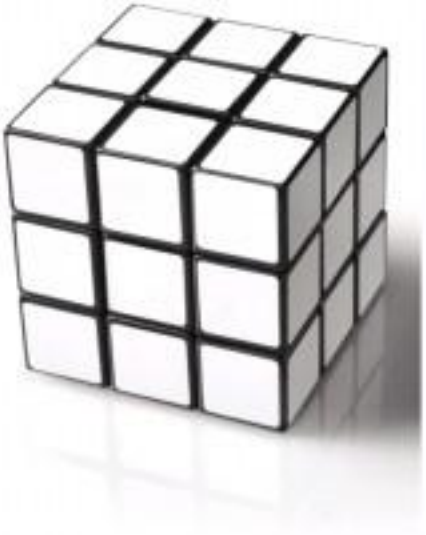

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Rockies take 3-0 lead over D'backs/A26

SPORTS

Editor Thaddeus S. Matsuoka Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa
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■ Els, Ochoa pull off big wins/A26

DISORIENTED: Noel Ramirez in the rings during the 2005 SEA Games.

POC blasts gymnast Ramirez for quitting

Peping says SEA Games dropout owes gov't

By Jane Navarro

ASK WHICH WAY ONE LOOKS AT IT, gymnast Noel Ramirez is indebted to the government and the Filipino people.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. said the controversial but indeed not at the country's top gymnast for deserting the national team bidding to retain the overall title in the Thailand-hosted Asian Games this December.

"They (athletes) must realize that the government has been spending a lot of money for their training and [overseas] exposure," said Cojuangco, referring to Ramirez and other delegated members of the national squad who earned their berths on the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines.

Ramirez, who won the gold in the horse vault and floor exercise events of the National meet held in Manila two years ago, joined his mentor, Santiago Ty, in leaving the GAP camp last week.

The departure of Ty and the 23-year-old Ramirez from the team triggered a mass resignation by the majority of the national gymnastics body's artistic gymnastics members Jowy Jalava, Jasper Flores, Frederick Ramos and Chris Matthew Lombrideo.

"Whatever happens, they still owe the Filipino people," said Cojuangco.

The POC chief also supported the decision of the SEAG Task Force, composed of members of the Olympic body and the Philippine Sports Commission, to drop Ramirez and his sympathizers from the national pool for the Thailand SEAG set Dec. 6-16.

Reports said the gymnasts protested the failure of the GAP to provide certain athletes the foreign exposures they needed to meet the set norm for inclusion in the 24th edition of the SEAG set in Nakhon Ratchasima.

Cojuangco, however, said there was no justification for the decision of Ramirez and Co.

"There has to be some kind of discipline within the NSAs so this incident will not serve as a precedent for other athletes to follow," said Cojuangco.

"What will happen to the Mitic (Chose type of athletes get what they wanted?"

Meanwhile, SEAG Task Force co-chair Tikitiki Cuenco said his group would exonerate (or) to the POC today is a thirst list of possible flag bearers for the RP delegation.

Among the candidates are Asian Games medallists Wallis Ocha and Jean Tipon-Uytiang, seven-time SEAG gold medal winner Jobi Stephan of judo and SEAG champion Hanis Nina Jose (diving), Benjie Tolentino (rowing) and Miguel Molina (swimming).

Lady Falcons target V-League lead today

ADAMSON TRIES TO GRAB THE SOLO LEAD WHEN it hosts Lyceum today in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Falcons meet the Lady Pirates at 5 p.m. seeking a follow-up to their 25-22, 22-25, 27-25 victory over the Far Eastern University Lady Tamaraws during Sunday's opening.

Defending champion La Salle takes on Letran at 5 p.m. hoping to bounce back from a 22-25, 22-25, 25-11 loss to the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses also last Sunday.

Adamson, which placed third in its initial foray into the league last year, has acquired former La Salle standout Metiza Bautista, who was also a UST grade school player in the last conference.

GAMES TODAY
(The Arena, San Juan)
5 p.m. — Lyceum vs Adamson
7 p.m. — Letran vs La Salle

Lyceum, coming off another winning NPDCAA season, is fielding almost the same squad that placed third in the last conference led by WNCAA Most Valuable Player Sherrilyn Cortile, Mary Grace Baltazar, Bernadette Batuigas, Dahlia Cruz and Beverly Belo.

La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus is hoping for the return of Jue Sands not playing the previous conference's worst team.

"We're in an adjustment phase," De Jesus said prior to the league's start. "We're mostly using former junior standouts who have recently entered the varsity level."

But the coach of the 2003-2006 UAAP champion team stressed that they would give the other schools a good fight despite their obvious disadvantage.

La Salle did not bring back Thai import Simonsuang Imsirut and instead hired Maryson Demontaya to back up Stephanie Mercado, Mirabelle Alarilla, Carlo Lizares, Michelle Darasin, Jacqueline Alinsug and Regine Diego.

Letran, the 2007-08 NCAA champion, has guest player Adamay Gayon, Bangalan's Pantaleon, Cleta Jenkins, Cindy Opinaya, Sioux Iglacion and Christine Magnaye in its bid to improve on its eighth place finish in the last conference. Ramilito C. Asuncion

Marcelo 10th in ROK World Cup of karting

LOMATO, ITALY — YOUNG KARTING ACE Jose Stefano Marcelo overcame a late shunt and a spin he drove the final grid to finish 10th in a field of 96 in the 2007 ROK World Cup at the Small Circuit Karting Track over the weekend.

The 14-year-old Filipino duo became the first Southeast Asian to land in the top 10 of the ROK Senior class in the world's toughest karting competition.

Marcelo completed the final 20-lap race in 21 minutes and 13.747 seconds, highlighting his rally with a best lap time of 44.867 seconds which threatened the 44.611 seconds posted by eventual champion Dominick Dipaolo of Italy.

"I gave it my best and we're quite proud to prove that Filipinos are among the best karters in the world," said Marcelo, who is the Philippines' flame of the best award.

The 96 participants were broken down into four groups in the elimination races with Stefano ending up as the 14th qualifier from a grid of 32 karters in the first heat.

In the 32-man second heat, Marcelo dueling the leaders in ninth place when he was bumped from behind with two laps to go and lost control. He wound up 30th.

That finish pulled him down to the repechage races where only the top six racers/spots in the semifinals.

But Marcelo was up to the challenge and

STEFANO Marcelo on the way to a pole-day top 10 finish in the Italy World Cup.

ended the race by 4.2 seconds in front of a huge gallery that included the legendary Formula One champ Michael Schumacher.

Marcelo started 29th in the semifinals and, despite bowling his chassis after having a battle as he awaited a collision, moved up to contact 8th place in the pre-final race.

The Manila Racing crew salvaged what was left with the last and Stefano worked his way up to 10th, passing Nicholas Tour of Russia and Adamek Vondrasz of the Czech Republic to the final lap.

Piccio tops World Woods Open

PICCIO: By sure shots

MIA PICCIO SIZZLED WITH a two-under par 70 to turn back Sally Watson of Scotland and win the World Woods Open of the Lanes Gun PTAT (Future Golfers) World Tour) by one stroke on her first try in Steamboat, Florida, Sunday.

Paris, two strokes behind Piccio at the start of the 36-hole competition, gunned down Ana Belen at Nos. 1, 7, 10 and 13 to conquer Bogeys on 11 and 16. She finished with 2-over-under 142.

Piccio bagged three of her last six holes for a 73 and 140 total in the event which serves as part of a series of tournaments that lays for members of the 80 team on golf scholarships from ICTSI.

Gina Rodriguez, who shared second place with Piccio in the first round, also made a 73 and finished tied for third with Elisa Avila of Japan at 145.

The amateur got the impetus, shot Piccio 10,000 points to close the gap in the race for the coveted title of the circuit exclusively for players in the 13-18 age bracket.

Everest conquerors also big in triathlon

LIO ORACION: Proud of his triathlon feats

By Jasmine W. Poyo

CLIMBING BACK TO THE TOP OF TRIATHLON

I want to repeat our success here, there he thought.

Lee Division, one of the first Filipinos to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, returned to this sporting vein to capture the overall title in the final leg of the Speedo National Age Group Triathlon Series last Sunday at the Ayala Alabang Village.

"I started to triathlon," the 33-year-old Division said. "I was at my peak in 1999 when I shifted to adventure racing, then mountaineering."

Division, who placed second in the Los Baños leg last month, completed the 950-meter swim, 27-km bike, 6.5-km run in one hour, 33 minutes and 39 seconds to win the sixth and final leg of the series.

"I came back to stay fit," said Division, the Luzbay, Quezon, dentist who conquered the world's highest peak in 2006 for his son. "I'm planning to climb K2 (in Pakistan, maybe in 2009. It's more technical than Mt. Everest."

Another Everest alumna, petite climber Carina Dayandayan, crossed the finish line first in the women's race with a time of 1:49:13. For the triathlon newcomer of the Philippines awarded the top plum to Marichu Rojas after turning Dayandayan around into lamp in the run stage.

Rojas clocked 1:59:42, followed by Margarita Lucero in 2:00:17 and Norma Medallo in 2:16:56.

Oracion took off early by jumping the first pack in the swim leg in 11 minutes and 18.18 seconds, then pulled ahead by submitting the fastest time in the 27-km bike at 51 minutes and 17.90 seconds.

Hendie Tabio came in second in 1:10:40, followed by Jake Edgar Quinones in 1:57:48.

Also in Sixkers: Points: 20-8 top prize, Antonio, 16-8 (142-48) Ramos, 14-10 (137-84) Sagrado, 10-14 (114-116) Rojas, 9-15 (97-183) Perez Jaranga, 40-48 (Cecilio Bernardo Jaranga, 16-48 (127-13), Jakki Tabbernas, 16-16 (127-128), Jaime Ag, 16-16 (124-12).

Lyceum bags 2 WNCAA crowns

DICIUM DOMINEI COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICTINE, 61-57. Aiming to open away the Senior A basketball crown of the 78th WNCAA season at the San Sebastian College gym.

The Lady Pirates (San dazzle it a double kill after having scrapped by the volleyball competition Friday, sweeping St. Nicholas of Saints College for the Senior it plays—their eighth in the country's only to bowl league for women.

The Lady Pirates (San Juan) at 9-0 (2-1) lead in the final 1:20 by shooting their opponents the rest of the way with their variety defense.

"All our hard work paid off," said rookie coach Aileen Liberato. "Cecile gave us my players and to our school officials for supporting us all the way."

Agot Umaro Gualbert squeezed for the Lady Pirates with 17 points, followed by MP team member Michiko Morimia who had 16.

The U-best 4 Mistresses was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

UST, Far Eastern duel for overall title

By Jasmine W. Poyo

IT'S A DUEL BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF Santo Tomas and Far Eastern University for the coveted UNAP championship after the first semester of competition in the league.

The Tigers, who captured three straight straight overall crown last season, raked women's swimming, women's dives, women's and juniors taekwondo and juniors table tennis.

The Tigresses highlighted their early campaign with title sweeps in the men and women's beach volleyball and the men and women's table tennis. The Maroons have now also topped men's taekwondo and men's dives.

La Salle dominated basketball by clinching the seniors and juniors titles, while the men's crown went to Ateneo, which also let in juniors chess and juniors boys' swimming.

University of the Philippines swept the judo competitions and topped the crowns in men and juniors girls' swimming.

The UP cruisers clinched their fifth straight championship, while the Tigresses romped to a fourth women's title during the recent swimming competitions at the Rizal Aquatic Center in Los Baños, Laguna.

"The swimmers stepped up to the challenge because it was a close competition," said Maroons coach Noel Rivera.

The Maroons compiled 2,009 points to edge the Archers, who placed second at 189 despite sweeping the individual events.

La Salle's Enchong Dee bagged the Most Valuable Player award after winning seven gold medals and setting new league records in the 50m butterfly (26.03 seconds), 100m butterfly (56.38 sec) and 400m individual medley (5:07.20 minutes). Teammate Alastair Quitoles won Rookie of the Year.

The Tigresses amassed 224.50 points to capture the women's title over the varsity squad's Rochelle Ragos, who settled for second at 186.50.

The Lady Maroons finished third at 161.50 despite the efforts of four-time MVP Lalaine Daraway.

FEU pulled off a double championship in beach volleyball after registering a seven-game sweep both in the men and women's tournaments held at the UP Cagayan satellite courts.

In taekwondo, the Tigresses posted a perfect 5-0 mark to run away with their fifth straight championship, while the Cubs secured their seventh straight crown. The Tamaraws notched a sweep by nailing their first men's title.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of South Cotabato
City of Koronadal

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Koronadal through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	New City Hall of Koronadal
Location	:	Zone III, City of Koronadal, South Cotabato
Brief Description	:	Construction of a Four (4) Storey Building with Basement
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	Two Hundred Million Pesos (P200,000,000.00)
Contract Duration	:	Eight (8) Months

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment listed in the Eligibility Forms available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility	October 16-30, 2007
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 16-30, 2007
3.	Deadline of Submission & Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 5, 2007, 5:00 p.m.
4.	Notice of Result of Eligibility Check	Nov. 9, 2007
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 12-16, 2007
6.	Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 21, 2007
7.	Deadline of Submission/Receipt and Opening of Bids	Submission – Dec. 4, 2007, 1:00 p.m. Opening – Dec. 5, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the City General Services Office, Ground Floor, City Hall, Gen. Santos Drive, City of Koronadal, upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three (3) Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) to the Cashier of the City Treasurer's Office of Koronadal. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) to the cashier.

The City Government of Koronadal assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify contractors for any expenses incurred in the preparation of eligibility requirements.

For inquiries, you can contact the City Engineer's Office/Project Management Unit (PMU) with telephone no. (083) 2282395 and look for Engr. Ruel C. Tranchan.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **MARCELITA M. LUCIDO**
BAC Chairman

(PDN-Oct. 16, 2007)

BUTUAN MILO MARATHON ELIMS

Sandinao, Arman best all comers

BUTUAN CITY—VITTA MAE NONGLO Sandinao captured his third leg championship event as Mary Ann Arman broke through after three second-place finishes in the 3 for Butuan Milo Marathon eliminations that ended at the City Plaza yesterday.

Sandinao, who won two titles in Cagayan de Oro City, clocked one hour, 36 minutes and 36 seconds to edge the men's 21K race and was the other qualifiers in the 42K grand finale in Metro Manila on Nov. 18.

Sandinao earlier tried to qualify in the grand finals during the Metro Manila elimination leg but only 21 but failed to finish the 42K race.

The 41-year-old Brgy. Sandinao, Bukidnon, prevailed at the expense of two former leg winners—Reynante Villanosa, who won in Davao City last year, and Jonard Gonzaga, the defending champion in 2007 and 2006.

Villanosa placed second in 1:37:36 and Gonzaga came in third in 1:39:35.

The 22-year-old Arman of Talacag, Agusan del Norte, finally shed her runner-up image yesterday to prevent winner Hazel Mackerales (who) to join the race. She won in 1:49:07.

Placing second and third were Michelle Amores (1:51:50) of Surigao and Yesah Sheran (1:58:28) of the Philippine National Police.

Sandinao and Arman's each pocketed P10,000 while the second and third finishers settled for the P7,000 and P5,000 prize, respectively.

The top three in both divisions made it to the finals of this semestral tune-up race to be held only with Fayrose Bath Hotel Manila, utilities and the Department of Tourism.

The top three finishers in the 5K side event were Kim Bulalacao, Anna Abayde and Gilmarie Ada Jr. in the men's and Sari Christine Ada, Christine Bellgrave and Jennifer Sagunto in the distaff side.

The winners in the 5K age group race for kids were Adrian Langreo and Kian Jon Ada in the 6-9 category and Daniel Ricardo and Siva Christian Ada in the 10-12 age group.

Against National High School were the elementary competitors in the high school level while Jr. Samaritano Union University captured the crown in the grade school level.

KOHILLO Sandinao leaves the rapa, the way winner of yesterday day's race.

SPORTSWATCH

Eala, back in limelight, heads PSA Forum guests

BADGE BALL. BOOKS AND BEACH VOLleyball share the spotlight today in the weekly PSA Forum at the Shakey's United Nations Avenue branch.

Coaches of the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) will be on hand to discuss their respective campaigns in the league's First Conference that starts on Sunday.

Invited PBA commissioner Noli Eala, with trainers Ray "Boom Boom" Bautista and BJ Banal, will talk about a big-looming open salad in December at the Araneta Coliseum.

Also gracing the exciting sports program sponsored by Shakey's and Pepsi are the Beaches in the Metro Tennis Ladies beach volleyball grand finals who will be accompanied by tournament organizer Tisha Aquino.

The session starts at 10:00 a.m.

Araneta stagfest under way

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE 20,000-SEAT Araneta Coliseum today as the Championship round of the Lyceum Basketball Association (LBA) 1st stag derby kicks off at 1 p.m. with 80 fights lined up.

Among the frontrunners with three wins each going into today's 4-stag finals are the entries of Pol Estrellado, MMC group; Alvin Arenas, Blue Raven; John Espinosa, Nelson de Boy Sinyang, St. Sil Binalasa Kreative Concept; Ox Rey Tuazon, Joey Abaquita/Wilfredo Bohol, Bobby del Rosario and Jess Mendoza/gym.

The derby's remaining 80 fights will be staged on Thursday.

Paragua whips Bitoon, rules Tanauan Open

PARACUA

GRANDMASTER Mark Paragua swept International Master Richard Bitoon in their two-game playoff Sunday to reap the Tanauan Open chess tournament held at the campus of the Far Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities in Tanauan City, Batangas.

Paragua, the only GM who entered the rank of upset in the quarterfinal round, also defeated National Master Bobot Sisch, 1-0, in a tiebreak in a round of 16. NM John Brad Gomez, 1.5-0.5, in the quarterfinals, and NM Ryan Ramirez, 1.5-0.5, in the semifinals.

With the win, Paragua pocketed the P100,000 champion's purse and up by school chess and president Sarmiento Bokes.

Bitoon, who earned the right to meet Paragua in the finals by beating NM Mardonen Mago (2-0), GM Darwin Laylo (2-0) and IM Buda Sadorra (2-0), nets P40,000.

Bitoon, upset winner over GM Rogelio Antonio in the quarterfinals, booted Nadera in the fourth for third place reward of P20,000.

Nadera, 1-0.5/3, upset winner over 2006 Tanauan Open champion GM Eugene Torre, netted for P9,000.

The 17 quarterfinal round inched out to be the testing ground for the first GMs.

The other contenders were IM Leandro Agagon (top junior), Hermie Camantan (top senior), Christine Rose Montano (top lady player), Aiselle Dahlia (top junior), Giovanni Cyrene Ramirez (top under 1800), Jefferson Caje (top maverick), Abbie Bryan Asuncion (top fiddler) and Rejoice Vic Magat (youngest player).

Paragua also topped the Pacific outdoor chess tournament held simultaneously with the elimination round of the third Tanauan Open at the SM Lipa.

Bitoon, who outlasted Lydia in the finals, copped solo crown, placed second, followed by Torre and Asuncio in third and fourth places, respectively.

The three-day Tanauan Active Chess Open Championship is an annual chess event of the Active Chess Center of Asia.

De La Hoya, Duran lead WBC Convention guests

By Salvan L. Laguntoy, Contributor

ALL-TIME GREATS OSCAR DE LA HOYA AND ROBERTO DURAN, as well as former heavyweight world champions Lennox Lewis and Larry Holmes head the guest list when the 45th WBC Annual Convention is held at the Manila Hotel from Nov. 11-17.

The former boxing superstars will be joined by World Boxing Council president Jose Sulaiman and possibly the Italian tennis Diva Sister and Hall of Famer Ismail Marco Antonio Barrera, Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, latest Mexican export.

The government, with the Games and Amusements Board as lead agency, has prepared a grand welcome for the expected 600 foreign delegates and 400 local boxing luminaries coming over for the annual affair.

"After 27 years, the Philippines will once again play host to the most influential organization in the boxing industry," said GAB Chair Eric Buhain during yesterday's press conference in the Manila Hotel.

HOPEFUL HOST GAB chair Eric Buhain

"This year's scheduled convention is a chance for us to showcase the Philippines once again as one of the foremost countries that support and promote boxing."

Ejercito's agenda have seen before that he is interested to name rookie Ramon, who's hanging up his gloves after losing assets to Pacquiao in Las Vegas recently, was invited by Sulaiman.

The 70-year-old Sulaiman is expected to arrive on Nov 7, while Gen. Oscar Inciello Boxing Federation members arrive on Nov. 8 for the OPBF Convention on the same day. The WBC Ratings Committee members are set to fly on Nov. 9.

A courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo has been scheduled for Nov. 16, the same day the PCSC Board of Governors are set to arrive from their respective countries.

PBA unfair to Jaworski?

CLEAN LIVING

Marnelo R. Miguel

THE MEMBERS OF THE Philippine Basketball Association Hall Board should step in the final command proposal to limit the age of their incoming commissioners to between 42 and 50 years old.

In my assessment, that proposal is flawed.

In this point, what the PBA needs is a commissioner who is older, a commissioner who is not only endowed with experience, but is also well-respected and honored in the team owners, the players and, most of all, the fans, who are the backbone of the glitz for pay league.

Over the years, the PBA—once the country's most popular and prestigious sports organization—has already lost some of its luster. The record will show that since 2000, when young and inexperienced people took over the PBA affairs, the league fell on hard times.

* * *

Most diehard fans now remember the PBA more for its failures than for its successes during the good old days when the undisputed Fans Prince was at the helm.

This time, I am keeping my fingers crossed that new league chief Rene Glaso of Red Bull, the members of the board, the search committee and PBA officer-in-charge Sonny Barrios, would be able to make a successful turnaround for the league.

By the way, the search committee is slated to meet today and discuss, among others, the proposal to limit the age of the new commissioner.

* * *

Two names have been mentioned as the leading candidates to become the fifth season commissioner, namely former Cebu Sokol, son of well-admired lawyer Rudy Salud, who once served as PBA commissioner, and former Senate committee secretary Atty. Lambert Ramos.

I would also like the commissioner to include in the list the names of several "oldies but goodies" such as former Sen. Robert Jaworski, retired basketball's "Living Legend" and an Olympian Freddie Webb, also a former senator like the Big J.

* * *

As a longtime follower of the PBA, I maintain that only the best and most experienced should be named as commissioner. And one of the most ideal choices is no other than Jaworski, who at 61 is still fit and trim.

Jaworski, then carrying Ginebra's colors, quit the PBA in 1999 when he was 53, the oldest ever to play professional basketball anywhere in the world.

"I think it is a record that is very hard to duplicate," said Fred Montilla of FilipiNet Online.

Jaworski played for the Philippines in the Asian Games, the Olympics and the former Asian Basketball Confederation (now known as Fiba Asia championships). As a playing coach, Jaworski won three PBA titles, aside from mentoring the Philippine team to a silver-medal finish in the 1990 Beijing Asian Games.

* * *

Tired of broken promises, retired Manila mider Robe Dupont of the many-time NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers said his team-owner, Jaycee's "falling out" with team owner Jerry Buss was further aggravated when the popular player refused to use "N-word" (four-letter word) as an "offensive" racial epithet.

Responding, Buss said: "I was a little surprised at him because, certainly he's never said anything to me like that. He's always been very respectful to me." He added that he hasn't seen the video.

* * *

Belated congratulations to TY Tang, son of my esteemed friend Jaty and his lovely wife Alice, for receiving the first Alumni Presidential Medal from De La Salle University.

Team captain of the Green Archers, Tang was cited by DLSU president Bro. Armin Luistro, FSC, "for living up to the ideals of a La Salle student and athlete" during the recent UAAP victory celebrations at the school campus on Taft Avenue.

Tang received the medal from his proud grandmother Emilia.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (JANITORIAL SERVICES)

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of Seven Million Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P7,300,000.00) being the approved budget for the contract (DAR-IP-02008) to prequalify contractors for janitorial services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The DAR, intends to select bids from eligible bidders for janitorial Management of three (3) years, subject to the guidelines set forth in the 2007 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is hereby open to Philippine citizens/entities duly licensed and accredited by the Philippine Association of Security Agencies, Security and Investigation Agencies (PASIA) and to submit its bid and qualify for the project, as contained in the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 058-2005 dated December 15, 2005.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is hereby open to all Philippine citizens/entities duly licensed and accredited by the Philippine Association of Security Agencies, Security and Investigation Agencies (PASIA) and to submit its bid and qualify for the project, as contained in the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 058-2005 dated December 15, 2005.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Agrarian Reform - Bids and Awards Committee (DAR-BAC) and examine the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. during October 16-23, 2007.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php. 50,000.00. The method of payment will be cash or manager's check.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be addressed to the address below on or before November 6, 2007, 9:00 a.m. at DAR Training Center, 6/F Compound 2 Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in the following forms:

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
2. Surety bond	Five percent (5%)

Bid opening shall be on November 6, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend the opening of bids.

The DAR-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(SGD.) ALIDA C. ADAMIT
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - October 16, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD PROCUREMENT SERVICE
[illegible]

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
[illegible]

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) – CSA, through the Corporate Operating Budget 2007 intends to apply the sum of [illegible] being the approved budget for the Contract (ABC) to prequalify contractors for the procurement of Security Services. (SAD-IP-02008). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The PCG – CSA now invites duly licensed eligible bidders for the procurement of Security Services. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section 5 of the Bidding Documents, viz:

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is hereby open to Philippine citizens/entities duly licensed and accredited by the Philippine Association of Security Agencies, Security and Investigation Agencies (PASIA) and to submit its bid and qualify for the project, as contained in the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 058-2005 dated December 15, 2005.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from PCG – CSA and examine the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of three thousand pesos (P3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the PCG Procurement Service or sent electronically to the address below.

The PCG – CSA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 31, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the Office of the Assistant Vice President.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the address below on or before 9:00 AM on November 15, 2007. Late bids will not be accepted. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following forms:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract or its Lot
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	(two percent (2%))
2. Bank guarantee	(two and a half percent (2 1/2%))
3. Surety bond	(five and a half percent (5 1/2%))

Bid opening shall be on November 15, 2007 at 9:01 A.M. at the Office of the Assistant Vice President. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder or his representative who chooses to attend at the address below.

The PCG – CSA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, or annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Atty. [illegible]
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - October 16, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
MARRIOTT HANSHAW HOTEL & RESORT, INC. Level 3 Hilton Shangri-La Hotel, Aseo Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Kim Sung Hong Malaysian	Gen. Ex. Manager
MARRIOTT HANSHAW HOTEL & RESORT, INC. Level 3 Hilton Shangri-La Hotel, Aseo Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Hu Fung Pow Sig Chinese	General Work Supervisor
MARRIOTT HANSHAW HOTEL & RESORT, INC. Level 3 Hilton Shangri-La Hotel, Aseo Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Hsu Ping Chen Chinese	Assistant Project Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 26F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Su Hu Chinese	Finance Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 26F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Sun Gao Chinese	Project Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 26F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Jin Chen Chinese	Technical Engineer
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 26F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Peng Yu Chinese	Account Manager
CHICONG MINING CORP. 7 Bolero St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Zhangming Zhang Chinese	Manager
CHICONG MINING CORP. 7 Bolero St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Cuge Meng Chinese	Mechanical Engineer
CHICONG MINING CORP. 7 Bolero St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Guotao Pan Chinese	Foreman
CHICONG MINING CORP. 7 Bolero St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Shaoqiang Li Chinese	Chief Cook
F.F. CRUZ & COMPANY, INC. 6th FCCL Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Godfrey Martin Ungson Indian	Consultant
ASIA PACIFIC TOURISM PHILIPPINES, INC. 21/F Discovery Center, 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Sehgal Inderjit	Director of Operations
G.A.S CORPORATION & GPOT, CORP. 6013 MT Dollar Telecom Plaza I, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Jerat Ken Indian	Interpreter
GALAXIANS TRAVEL & TOURS, INC. Rm. 202 1/F Cesa Condo, Orchid ave. cor. Calle G, Ayala City	Gangotri Hong Jam Tong Korean	Assistant Administrative Manager
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING & INNOVATION CONSULTING, INC. 19F SSS Tower Bldg., Diliman Extension, Quezon City	Mario Roland Cordero	Corporate Secretary Trainer
ABI PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F Tektite Towers, Pasig Blvd. cor. Calle Conde St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Troy Joseph Quebral Charlton Australian	Health and Safety Manager
CHINA STATE STEEL CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION 21/F Asia Trust Bank Center Bldg., Ayala Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Shen Ban Qi Chinese	Civil Engineer
YAZAKI MANAGER, INC. 12 Dona Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jung Ho Kim Korean	Financial Controller
CORP. LLC PHILIPPINE BRANCH 14F Tytana Control Plaza Bldg., Tytana Ave. cor. Investment Drive, Mandaluyong City	Cesare Lui Dora Mexican	Collection Manager
SINO EXTRACO CORP. 19/F Ty & Sons Bldg., Dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Ramon Liong Filipino	Engineer
HARRISON HARVARD MARFORES AGENCY CORP. & BUSINESS CONSULTANCY CORP. 8/F Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Pasig City	Hartono Kwan Indonesian	Consultant Manager
HARRISON HARVARD MARFORES AGENCY CORP. & BUSINESS CONSULTANCY CORP. 8/F Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Pasig City	Hongkyun Choi Korean	Assistant Consultant Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 26F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Yulong Chen Chinese	Product Manager
CALLBOX, INC. 2/F MGM Grand Luxe Tower, Chartwin Drive, Sub-Aerocity, Pampanga	Jeong Ho Yong Korean	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Illegible)
Director IV, Ortigas

(PDI - October 16, 2007)

BY TOP CHOICE

Els enhances reputation as Match Play champion

WENTWORTH, ENGLAND—Ernie Els rejuvenated his troubled career with an emphatic record seventh victory in the final of the World Match Play Championship on Westwentth's West Course here Sunday.

A combination of inspired putting and creative scrambling saw the South African overwhelm Angel Cabrera of Argentina, 6-and-4, to claim the million pound ($2.1-million) winner's check.

"This has been a very important win to myself and my career," he said after collecting the new 16-million trophy.

"It's absolutely a dream come true and I would never have thought in my wildest dreams that I could win this tournament seven times.

"Yesterday, against Henrik Stenson, was a really tough match and I wasn't at my best, but for some reason today it was all there, especially this afternoon."

It was only Els' second European Tour victory of 2007 and the

ERNIE ELS flashes his $2M

24th of his career, but his recent form has been inconsistent as he has struggled to shake off the lasting effects of a knee injury sustained over years ago on a sailing holiday.

"I've played well the last two years," he said.

"It may seem like I'm a putter guy, but I'm quite impressive when it comes to getting results and they haven't come my way due to get a win is satisfying, and hopefully this will open up some doors for me.

"The world number one, Tiger Woods] is out there, but I just want to keep playing this way."

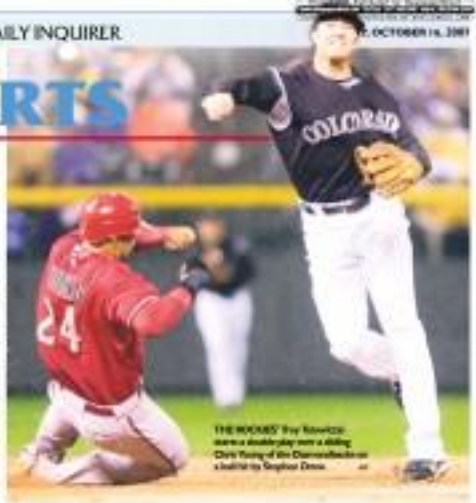
With 12 birdies in the 33 holes played, it was Els' short game that made the difference.

The 37-year-old, whose season to date has been one of near-misses and frustration, immediately took control in the morning round of the 36 hole final.

He won the opening hole and then reached the first in 31, three up on Cabrera, the US Open champion, after pitching to on the ninth for his fourth birdie in seven holes.

An increasingly frustrated Cabrera might have thought his luck had turned on the par five 12th, when a wayward Els second ended the hole after his third shot rushed up in the water.

But a 35 foot putt on the 14th restored the South African's three hole lead. AFP



THE ROCKIES' Troy Tulowitzki starts a double play over a sliding Chris Young of the Diamondbacks on a ball hit by Stephen Drew.

Rockies pound Diamondbacks

Ochoa keeps Samsung crown

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA—World No. 1 Lorena Ochoa posted her second successful title defense of 2007 by easily winning the $1 million LPGA Samsung World Championship on Sunday.

Ochoa entered the round tied with Norway's Suzann Pettersen before going on to shoot a six-under 66 for 18-under 270 and her seventh title of the year.

"I have been trying to get my seventh victory for a couple of weeks," said Ochoa, who clinched the Player of the Year award. "I like being on top, and I am going to continue to work hard."

LORENA OCHOA flies victory

Ochoa added $230,000 to her three million-plus earnings, further cementing her grip on the money list lead and as the year's scoring leader.

"Everything is coming together," she said. "I understand myself a lot better, and I know how to handle the pressure."

She finished with seven birdies and made one bogey for a four-shot win over South Korea's Mi Hyun Kim, who shot a 68 and finished at 14-under 274.

Pettersen, who overcame Ochoa on the second hole of sudden-death playoff to win the Longs Drugs Challenge last week, shot even par 72 in Sunday's three addition at the Palm Springs-area Bighorn Golf Club.

Michelle Wie scored finishing last by one stroke after shooting a one-under 71 on Sunday. AFP

SUNNER—FOOTY TORRUM-bia's three-run, ninth-inning homer powered the Colorado Rockies to a 4-1 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks and within one win of their first World Series ever, on Sunday.

The streaking Rockies, who lead the National League Championship Series, 3-0, can sweep up the title with a home victory over the Diamondbacks on Monday.

If they win the series, they will play either the Boston Red Sox or the Cleveland Indians in the World Series. The Red Sox and Indians are tied 3-3 in the AL series.

Torrealba broke a 1-1 tie with his line-drive homer off Arizona starter Livan Hernandez into the left-field stands.

"He threw a fast one, and I hit it really good," Torrealba, the Rockies' catcher, told reporters after having seen slow curveballs from Hernandez.

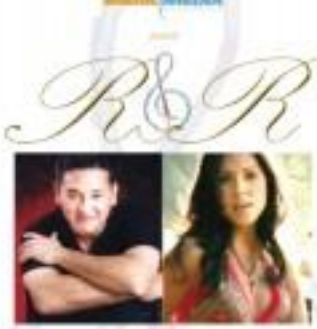
The homer, which came with two outs, was his first of the postseason. He also had a double in the third inning. The victory was the 2000-to-21 gainers for the Rockies, who have won all six playoff outings.

Josh Fogg gained the win, his second in the post season, holding Arizona to seven hits and one run over six innings. He struck out three and walked one.

"We played them (the Diamondbacks) a lot this year, so we had a pretty good idea of what we wanted to do with them," Fogg said reporters.

Matt Holliday gave Colorado a 1-0 lead with a solo homer in the first inning off Hernandez last Arizona ousted it to the fourth through Mark Reynolds' homer.

Only one team has rallied from a 3-0 deficit to a championship series, the Boston Red Sox in 2004 against the New York Yankees. They went on to win the World Series. Reuters



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England, SA gain finals

PARIS—ENGLAND SCALED NEW HEIGHTS of defensive performance in its semifinal win over France, assistant coach Mike Ford said on Monday.

The world champions, who were impressive defensively against the Australians in the quarterfinals, stepped up a gear in the Stade de France to keep the losers from their skyline and counter them in three penalties in the 14-9 win.

Ford, however, who executed to long-range drop goal attempts from the opening exchanges, smiled the game with a series of desperate, hopeful kicks and chips after their attempts to run through England's whole wall consistently failed.

South Africa beat Argentina, 37-13, in the other semifinal on Sunday with all four of its tries coming from turnovers ball.

England is likely to be without winger and 2003 winner Josh Lewsey for Saturday's final game because of a hamstring strain and his defensive contribution will be sorely missed. Reuters

PCA netters rule Home & Away tilt

PHILIPPINE COLLEGIATE Athletic Association (PCA) favourite mauled top seed and host Muntinlupa Sports Center Tennis Club (MSTC) Maroon, 4-3, Saturday to clinch the 2nd Rebisco Home & Away Interclub Tennis Tennis title.

Hanky Lee and Achin Cobar won the deciding seventh match over Digi Tenton and Regie delos Reyes, 8-7, as PCA clinched its second Home and Away title in three years.

PCA's Jon Tolentin, the tournament's most valuable player, headed the assortment honored by sponsors Rebisco, Dick Sports and Timeless Watches. The other top performers were MSTC's Baby Gregorio and Patrick Arnaiz.

PCA's Ivan Sanvo hits a backhand volley as partner Mike Misa gets ready for the return during their match against MSTC's Tondee Villar and Paolo Sanchez. Sanvo and Misa won, 8-4.

La Union sportsfest up Nov. 2

SURFING WILL BE THE HIGHLIGHT event in a three-day multisports competition set Nov. 2-4 in the Urbiztondo Beach in San Juan, La Union.

Dubbed as the La Union Surfing Break II, the event is expected to lure more than 3,000 participants, including speed climbers, frisbee throwers and beach volleyball players.

"When we started this event last year, we were surprised by the number of participants who showed up, mostly students on their semestral breaks, said organizer television personality Paolo Bediones.

"Our province has been blessed with a surfing place that can accommodate from beginner surfers to the more experienced ones," said Joseph Ostrosk, La Union's tourism officer.

A project of the provincial government of La Union, the Tourism Department, DOT Region I, and the municipality of San Juan, the event is supported by San Miguel Corp., Chow King, Ships Islands, Asian Spirit, Globe Philippines, Wave Water Management, Thunderbird Resorts and Aero 90.3.

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BUSINESS

Edita Rizal D. Manuela • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Mariano

PUBLIC FOR BETTER VALUES

OFW remittances jumped 10.6% in Aug.

TWIN WIN: Inquirer's Doris Dumlao (2nd from left) and Elizabeth Garchitorena Lucero (2nd from right) pose for the camera after receiving their awards as Best Banking Reporter and Best Capital Market Reporter, respectively, during the 16th Ejap-Cibda Journalism Awards last Friday. With them are (from left) Ejap president Homer Beens, Cibda president of Manila Times, who hugged the Best Feature award-winning Lorraine of Business Mirror, telecommunication and transportation; Paul Isa also of Business Mirror, energy, and Milwida Guevara, chair of the Awards Judges.

Total for first 8 months hit $9.3B

By Doris C. Dumlao

MONEY SENT HOME BY OVERSEAS FILIPINOS through the banking system surged by 10.6 percent in August from a year ago to $1.2 billion despite the downturn in the offshore deployment of new workers, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The year-on-year growth in August was faster than the 4.44 percent annual expansion in July and brought total to-Dates for the eight-month period to $9.3 billion, 13.3 percent better than the remittances in the same period last year. It was also the 16th straight month that overseas remittances exceeded the $1 billion mark.

When the year-on-year growth in remittances fell to a low 1.05 percent in June, there were concerns that these inflows—which had helped cushion the economy from local and

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

CURRENCIES

OCTOBER
PESO-DOLLAR RATE
₱ 44.85 = $1
...And 5 p.m., Oct. 15, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B6)

Mines lift stocks

SHARE PRICES CLOSED A volatile session EVEN' ventured higher yesterday with miners outperforming, offsetting losses in some blue-chips, dealers said.

The composite index added 37.16 points to 3,881.28 after moving between 3,853.06 and 3,883.26.

There were 77 gainers and 63 decliners while 61 stocks were flat.

A total of 3.8 billion shares valued at ₱1.2 billion were traded.

Returning from a three-day weekend, investors snapped up mining stocks after strong ores in gold report prices last Thursday, before a mild pullback the following day. Philippine markets were

VIEWS B4

IN THIS ISSUE

- **I've been** hacked /B3
- **Petron** seeks to prevent auction of Bataan property /B5

Gov't probes small-scale miners

By Amy R. Remo

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES Secretary Lito Atienza has ordered an investigation of some small-scale mining operators who have allegedly exceeded production limits and abused the conditions set in their mining permits.

"While only allowed to use picks, shovels and similar implements, some holders of small-scale mining permits have reportedly been using tractors, backhoes and other heavy equipment—a clear violation of their permits," Atienza said in a statement.

He added that "wealthy investors masquerading as small miners are not only shortchanging the government and the community. Their irresponsible mining activities endanger the environment and threaten the health and safety of the people."

Atienza issued the warning in the wake of growing concern over the operations of nickel mining company Gil Metals Inc. in Tubay, Agusan del Norte.

The firm has reportedly "far exceeded" its allowable annual production of 50,000 metric tons, the extraction ceiling set for any small-scale mining permit.

According to the DENR, the maximum annual production allowed for metallic minerals is 50,000 dry metric tons of "ore, not the metal itself."

For nonmetallic minerals, the allowed maximum annual production is 50,000 (000? of the material itself.

In terms of land area, existing permit holders and contractors are allowed a maximum of only 20 hectares for a single permit or contract area.

Atienza has already issued an order suspending the operations of MMSI, pending the results of an investigation of the firm's radioactive mining operations.

The DENR last Thursday said, led by Environment Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio, will determine the extent of MMSI's mining operations and their environmental, social and economic impacts on the communities in the area.

Atienza said the results of the investigation would also guide the DENR in implementing further measures to curb the unscrupulous activities of small-scale miners with big mining operations.

The small-mining permit of MMSI was granted by the local government of Agusan del Norte.

It allowed the use of artisanal method, commonly known as sinter-tunnel, where only tools like crowbars, hammers and picks can be used.

Free Yahoo! Mail text service draws Smart, Globe

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINES HAS BECOME ONE OF only four global markets for a pioneering service where Yahoo! Mail users can send free real-time text messages to both Smart and Globe subscribers.

"We are initially offering this service to only four markets: The Philippines, Canada, United States and India. There is no doubt that the Philippines is the SMS Capital of the world...with more than 500 million text messages being sent everyday. Yahoo! Answers, the trivia-based role that SMS has in communication among Filipinos," Yahoo! senior director of business development Jojo Sumaoang told the Inquirer via e-mail.

Smart and Globe both acknowledged that convergence could be a win-win situation for mobile providers and their respective subscribers.

"There are already a number of services where all networks can participate. Yahoo has a huge user base who also happen to be cell phone users, so this is a case where that (synchronicity) makes sense," Smart spokesperson Eumen Abeto said in separate interviews.

"Our units are pleased the partnership with Yahoo! we have been very pleased with the results. It is a good service for subscribers," added Globe spokesperson Anna Gonzales.

Yahoo! estimates that there are 14 million Filipinos using the Internet and 85 percent of them use Yahoo! e-mail. An additional eight million Filipinos are expected start using the Internet next year and Yahoo! expects to attract the majority of these users to its service.

Worldwide, Yahoo! has a user base of 248 million people.

To promote loyalty among these millions of users, Yahoo! Mail built upon the instant messaging service launched earlier this year. Users can now send free messages to a Smart or Globe mobile phone number directly from their e-mail by selecting "text message" in a panel that shows up when they compose a new mail.

To prevent spam, the recipient of a Yahoo! Mail IM(I) message is asked whether he wants to receive the text. Yahoo! also limited outbound messages. Yahoo! Mail users can only send four text messages for every one mobile reply. In addition, Yahoo! Mail users cannot send 160 messages to multiple recipients at the same time because such routines has to reply before receiving any more messages.

Bank lending up 7.5% to ₱1.82T

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOANS EXTENDED BY BANKS posted a nine-month growth of 7.5 percent in August, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The August growth rate outpaced the 6.9 percent year-on-year expansion registered in July. It also marked a turnaround from the 0.6 percent decline in August last year.

In report, the BSP said that loans extended by banks as of August reached ₱1.82 trillion. The report included lending by commercial banks, thrift banks and rural banks, net of their lending to the central bank.

"The recent policy rate cut by the BSP would foster further growth in bank lending to the productive sectors of the economy," BSP Gov. Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Last Oct. 4, the policy-making Monetary Board slashed the BSP's benchmark interest rates by 25 basis points, easing its monetary policy for the second time this year, following the US Federal Reserve's sharp rate cuts.

The BSP's key policy rates were reduced to 6.5% percent for overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate and 7.5% percent for overnight lending or repurchase rate, their lowest levels in 11 years.

Tetangco said the continued broadening of the financial markets, which makes our bank financing increasingly available to the corporate sector, would complement the banks' lending activity.

Most sectors of the economy registered robust growth in loan absorption, led by the transportation, storage and communication sector, whose bank borrowings rose by 33.6 percent. Loans to the construction sector also grew by 31.9 percent while those extended to the community, social and personal services rose by 6.1 percent.

Lending to financial intermediaries, real estate and business services posted a 6.9-percent growth while loans to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry rose by 5.7 percent.

By contrast, lending to mining and quarrying, manufacturing, and electricity and water sectors contracted to declined from year-ago levels.

Bank lending is a key driver of domestic liquidity growth. It is considered a major indicator of economic activity.

NFA raises palay buying price by 10%

Farmers get ₱11 a kilo plus incentive

By Amy S. Remo

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY HAS increased by 10 percent its buying price for palay to boost production and raise farmers' earnings.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said the NFA's palay buying price was raised to ₱11 per kilo from ₱10.

Also, Yap said farmers would continue to enjoy the incentive of ₱0.25 per kilo for palay that met NFA's moisture content requirement and delivered to its warehouses.

Farmers' cooperatives will get an additional ₱0.25-a-kilo incentive if they sell their produce to the government.

The incentives brought to ₱11.25 per kilo the NFA's buying price for palay from individual farmers and to ₱11.50 per kilo for those sold by farmer-cooperatives.

The new prices apply to no clean and dry palay with 14 percent moisture content, Yap added.

He said the NFA's palay procurement two-week stress as a "price push" mechanism that would influence the buying rates of private traders.

During the current harvest season, the average palay buying price of private traders has been monitored at ₱11.47 to ₱12.30 a kilo.

"The agriculture department has been relentless in its efforts to promote the productivity and profitability of our rice farmers," Yap said.

"This recent increase in the palay procurement price will surely boost our local farmers' enthusiasm to produce more, especially with the use of high-yielding hybrid seeds and better inputs. Knowing that the government is here to support them," he added.

The last time the government increased its palay procurement price was in December 2004.

The new buying price was approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo upon Yap's recommendation. This, according to Yap, was the government's response to the farmers' clamor for higher NFA buying prices of palay.

NFA Administrator Jessup Navarro said the move would improve the farmers' income and enable them to meet the rising cost of farm inputs.

The NFA buying today during the main harvest season to prevent an artificial decline in prices and to feed up its buffer stock.

PAL, Etihad enter into code-share deal

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES (PAL) started offering Manila-Abu Dhabi flights under a code-sharing agreement with Etihad Airways.

This is PAL's first such commercial deal since acquiring ownership last Sept. 20.

The code-share agreement, which became operational on Oct. 4, gives PAL exclusive access on Etihad's daily service between Manila and the United Arab Emirates capital.

These services are displayed in computer reservations systems as both Etihad Airline code "EY") and PAL ("PR") flights.

PAL has code-share agreements with eight international carriers, enabling the country's flag carrier to serve eight destinations from Manila and Cebu. Before Cebu, PAL also has an extensive code-share partnership with Air Philippines on the latter's domestic network.

PAL has designated Etihad's Manila-Abu Dhabi flight as PR 623, departing daily at 4 p.m. with same-day arrival in the UAE capital at 8:25 p.m.

The Abu Dhabi-Manila service is designated as PR 628, with daily departures at 2:05 a.m. and arrival at 2:30 p.m. of the same day.

Rina T. Glebusiano

OFW remittances ...

From page B1

foreign shocks in recent years – might be starting to taper off.

But BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the sustained growth was due to demographic trends in advanced economies, referring to the aging population that, in turn, increased the demand for skilled labor from developing countries like the Philippines.

Tetangco also cited the geographical and skill diversification of Filipinos abroad as well as the efforts of banks and remittance agents to provide overseas Filipinos, including their beneficiaries, enhanced money transfer services and easier access to financial products.

The United States, United Kingdom, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Singapore, Japan, and Hong Kong constituted in the major sources of overseas remittances.

Remittances in the first eight months grew even as the total number of deployed Filipinos declined by 3.7 percent to 726,610 from the level a year ago.

Based on preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the total number of land- and sea-based workers stood at 568,336 and 166,264, lower by 1.8 percent and 10.2 percent from their year-ago levels.

Based on the latest POEA report, the contraction in employment of sea-based workers was due mainly to the shortfall in the number of maritime officers as US agencies refer to foreign shipping vessels, delays in the issuance of working visas and competition from other Asian and European seafarers.

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Internet, remittance firms' profits surge

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacsamana

INTERNET GAMING FIRM PHILWEB CORP. reported that its net income surged dramatically by 1,188 percent in 9M07 (9 months from January to September) from P43.5 million posted in the same nine-month period last year, Philweb's Internet Solidus said.

Likewise, money transfer company Ebrem Inc. said that its net income for the first nine months (Jan-Sept) rose sharply by 11% percent to P76.2 million from the P68.5 million of the previous year.

In a statement, Philweb's requested a 111-percent rise in revenues for the first three quarters to P910.5 million, from P95.3 million in the same period last year.

Solidus pinned the strong growth on rising revenues from the company's core internet casino and sports betting businesses.

"Not only have we increased the number of our internet casino stations and the number of terminals within those stations, but we continue to realize scale benefits and efficiencies, resulting in better margins," Solidus said.

Ebrem's net income margin is at 62 percent, up from last year's 46 percent.

In the first three quarters of the year, Philweb's auditors Sycip, Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV) and Ebrem's auditor Isla Lipana & Co. (PwC) issued unqualified opinions on the financial statements of the two companies.

Philweb's auditors have also submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) their audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Philweb is a diversified gaming company that develops proprietary gaming solutions for outside clients; PhilWeb Leisure and Tourism Corp., a venture to explore leisure and tourism activities; and PhilWeb Tourism and Entertainment Corp., a company to build facilities in this sector. Philweb has a "new client" of about $10 million.

PhilWeb is a dominant land player in the internet gaming sector, and is a technology enabler of state-led Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp.

Also, money transfer company Ebrem said its revenue grew 40.5 percent to P283.8 million for the first nine months from the P197.8 million last year.

Tomorrow, Ebrem will be listing its shares, and begin trading a total of 340.6 million shares at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In a statement, Ebrem president Harris Jacildo said the robust growth in revenue was fueled by a 56 percent increase in remittance volume to $2.07 million during the period.

"In addition, our income margins almost doubled to 27.5 percent as further economies of scale were realized from the existing international and domestic networks," Jacildo added.

Encouraged by its 9-month performance, Ebrem expects to more than double its 2007 net income, and sustain the momentum until 2008.

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I've been hacked

I AM NOT IN A GOOD MOOD today because someone hacked into my computer and took control of my e-mail address. The hacker then sent a message to all my contacts saying that I was in Africa with an uncle dying of prostate cancer and asking for a donation of $12,000. Nobody fell for it because everyone knows that I am here in Manila and the sender's use of the word "donation" was another telltale giveaway. The guy may be a good hacker but he is almost illiterate. I cannot get back into my e-mail because he has changed the password, locking me out.

I told Google and wrote repeatedly to the Help Desk but I have received no response after 3 days. They are probably too busy. If he doesn't use the address for 5 days, they will contact me. In the meantime, I have set up another account, which I will use to advertise, together with the following: Those who are recorded in hand copy last scenario and few hits are not, so they were deleted and cannot be traced. It is up to them to call me to the attention.

I am not publishing my new e-mail. A lot of readers will be disappointed but if you write to me e-mail once, we can do it again. My 2008 articles, with all the jokes written since 2000 were also lost, so there goes my 5th Bradwell joke book. As a result of this stupid prank, many people will not get a Christmas card. I always gave advice freely as a public service.

I suppose how BIRMINGHAM when he discovered that the figures he had been given showing declining employment were not based on basic data. I would not be surprised if there is no change on Oct. 30 and by December, he will have spent two months of data to help him decide.

The dividend season got underway with ALCOA missing estimates. As a result, the shares fell and the DOW declined 60 points next day. Mid-Atlantic noted that the 4th quarter would be better than anticipated as the market went down. On Friday, GE announced profits 14 percent higher year on year as the market went up again. Every time an important company reports, the stocks tumble because with the news, the market has gone up. As there are 500 stocks in the S&P index, we can anticipate a 20 percent fall for the next three weeks. The only consistent factor is the declining dollar, even Dr. Bubbo doesn't want them.

MR. BEARBULL

Rate Nowhere

For many years the peso and the baht have been almost at parity with one point separating them. Today the peso is 44 and the baht 34 so the gap is an unprecedented 10 points. Furthermore, the overseas baht is only 31. This makes BNP 9M2007 forecast of 43 for 2007, 37 for end 2008 and 30 for end 2009 plausible. The fallout would be devastating. Exports would be zero, call centers would have closed down or moved elsewhere, and OFWs would be less inclined to go abroad when their remittances would have lost nearly half their value compared to when the price was 70 baht. Tourist spending would fall, as investments lost their value. Tourist homes might be affected as OFWs are buying them and the only consolation would be a low rate of inflation due to stable food and oil prices.

China's trade surplus for the first nine months is up 23 percent and the U.S. will disagree for the years to be resolved by a significant increase but I don't think the Chinese will allow their currency to be overvalued. Consultant should include 8:00 in the Olympics as they can win the gold medal by a huge margin.

In the UK, oil has hit a new record of $83 a barrel but valued in euro or most other currencies, the rise is much less steep. The IPI (producer price index) rose only 0.1 percent, less than expected. The CPI (consumer price index) is expected later in the week. In the meantime, consumer spending has risen 6.6 percent in the quarter, the highest since mid-2004. If it is too early to calculate company earnings growth, perhaps in another two weeks, but so far, there are no signs of a recession. Banks are putting up a fund of up to $75 billion as a backup that could be used to buy risky mortgage securities and other assets, a move designed to ease pressure on a crucial part of the credit market that threatens the broader economy.

In his book, The Age of Turbulence, Greenspan writes about himself as a math nerd and a captivate player in a rock band. None at all, he looks back at his 'ancient as a diehard memory. The book is well worth reading and gives a deep insight into the brain. It is also written in clear English.

I would like to congratulate Al Gore for winning the Nobel Prize for the discovery of algorithms. Without them, we would never have made such great advances in mathematics, computers and most industrial processes.

* * *

In the past, I have written many horrible things about my wife but she can be very understanding. Last week, she was in the kitchen when I heard a loud scream. I rushed in to find a mouse on the floor. She was standing on a chair. I picked up the mouse by the tail and threw it out the window. She said, "Thank you, my hero." I replied, "Don't mention it, my dear."

PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
(Philhealth)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
BIDDING FOR I.T. EQUIPMENTS

The Philhealth Regional Office - Caraga (PRO Caraga) wishes to invite bidders for the following project and their eligibility:

1	unit/s Laptop	1	unit/s Ink Jet Printer
10	unit/s Web Client w/ LCD Monitor	1	unit Colored SCSI Tape Drive
	unit/s UPS	1	unit Scanner
1	unit/s Heavy Duty Dot Matrix Printer	1	unit/s Network Switch 24 ports
1	unit/s Local Server	1	unit/s Network PC with UPS
1	unit/s Network Laser Printer	1	unit UPS (VPS Pack Monitored)

The Government of the Philippines through Philhealth, had provided funds for which the invitation is issued. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is for Php 1,000,000.00.

All interested parties are invited for the Pre-Bid Conference at the Philhealth Regional Office Caraga Conference room, 3rd Level, Rosario Building 1, Rosario Ave., Butuan City on October 31, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. The pre-bid conference shall be undertaken starting October 31, 2007 to November 1, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the General Services Section, Management Services Division through Ms. Maylin D. Ani, BAC Secretariat. Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00.

The bidders shall drop the duly accomplished bid documents in a sealed envelope in the bid box located at the Management Services Division, Philhealth Regional Office - Caraga, Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on November 12, 2007 at 1:00 P.M. The aforesaid bids shall be duly opened in the presence of the bidding group of the said office. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted. Opening of bids will commence at the Conference Room. Any bidder who comes late will not be accommodated.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved project for bidding. For this, shall determine if such prospective bidder is eligible or participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of such prospective bidders' eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the same discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

The Bid Security shall be in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the approved budget for the contract in the following forms:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract in the Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Php 10,000.00
Bank Guarantee	One & a half percent (1 1/2%)	Php 15,000.00
Surety Bond (CSD)	One & a half percent (1 1/2%)	Php 15,000.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Php 1,000,000.00

*Treasury check not accepted

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. (085) 341-1268, 342-8990, 342-8991, or 815-0148 local 3.

We look forward to your participation in the worthwhile endeavor.

Philhealth reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and in the invitation. Philhealth further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and assumes no responsibility that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO S. GONZALEZ, M.D.
Chairperson, PRO - Caraga Bids and Awards Committee

(BPA - Invitation 10 & 11, 2007)

Mines ...

From page B1

closed on Friday for a public holiday.

"Philex Mining and Lepanto Consolidated provide exposure to copper and gold, while Atlas Consolidated and Geograbe Resources provide exposure to nickel," Macquarie Research said in a research note.

"We think these companies stand to benefit from the huge potential of the Philippine minerals industry as well as the government's thrust to revitalize the sector," it added. AFP

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– Ms. Rowena Guanio, San Miguel Corporation

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– Candace De Villa, Accent Communications Inc.

"Time really flies fast. The knowledge that you will gain from the two-day workshop is too valuable to forget. It is applicable to both your family and career."
– Jose Mendez, Intel Philippines

"The two-day investment was well worth it. Very good use of Alec Castello's own personal experiences as a leader. He brought us life John Maxwell's concepts."
– Ollie Mayuga, Microsoft

"I have been attending seminars for years and so far this is the best one that I've ever attended. Very informative and well-crafted. Don't have so much fun while learning!"
– Cheryll T. Silva, DEEDS

"Alec Castello has once again clearly and passionately put his teaching across. It was a job well done."
– Ma. Andrea Ojeda Briones

"Excellent, excellent, excellent!"
– Brian Fabiana, HSBC

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Petron seeks to prevent auction of Bataan property

Bataan officials claim oil firm failed to settle realty taxes since '94

Abigail L. Ho

PRESIDENT LUCIO PETON Corp. has sought the help of a Regional Trial Court to stop the Provincial Treasurer of Bataan from auctioning pieces of property to its Bataan refinery.

The Provincial Treasurer claimed that the oil firm failed to settle its realty taxes, spanning 1994 to the first half of 2007, worth some P1.7 billion.

As a result, Bataan officials have scheduled the auction of Petron's refinery properties to maximize.

But Petron vice president for legal and external affairs Jose Jesus Laurel said the Provincial Treasurer's claims had no basis, adding that the revised tax assessment was "erroneous, excessive and invalid."

Laurel said Petron had been religiously paying its property taxes over the past years, and was even advancing payments at times.

According to company records, Petron had paid property taxes amounting to P7,677 billion, based on previous assessments made or approved by the province.

"The revised assessment of the Provincial Assessor on our properties at the refinery is erroneous, excessive and invalid, and the Provincial Treasurer's actions thereon have no legal basis," Laurel said. "The intention to auction some of Petron's properties on Oct. 17 is highly irregular, and we are prepared to exhaust all legal remedies."

He said Petron had already appealed the assessment to the Local Board of Assessment Appeals.

The oil firm had also submitted its response to the Notice of Revised Assessment and Notice of Delinquent Taxes on its real properties.

Petron's 180,000-barrels-a-day refinery supplies almost 40 percent of the country's total fuel requirements, including those for the power, manufacturing and transportation industries.

Mr. Bearbull

Principal B4

standing. After being married for many years, I said, "Honey, 30 years ago...we had a cheap apartment, a basic bike, a sofa bed and a 14-inch black and white TV. But I got to sleep every night with a hot 28-year-old chick. Now I have a P30-million home, a Mercedes-Benz, a king-size bed and a 75-inch plasma TV. But I'm sleeping with a 50-year old woman. It seems to me that you are not holding up your side of things."

Being a very reasonable woman, she said, "I'm not sure I find a hot 28-year-old chick." Then she would trade sites that I would have again to living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 14-inch black and white TV.

Aren't cliche stories wonderful? They really know how to solve your mid-year crisis.

(From Page B1)

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IN THIS ISSUE
Health and wellness tips /C4

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chris Batad-Fortunato

Two teas make new weight-loss formula

By Anne B. Jardaleza

Hané says his product works for 78 percent of users as each body reacts differently

MANY PEOPLE who have tried numerous fad diets have decided there is no magic pill to burn fat and there is no universal magic formula to lose weight.

But Jorge Hané, known to his followers throughout the world as the "international weight-loss guru," seems to be selling just that.

Hané, a former television producer and businessman based in Miami, Florida, said he went back to school more than 14 years ago to study nutrition when there was a demand from viewers for a product to complement his fitness video.

JORGE Hané with wife Fresnia S.

He said he then developed an all-natural weight-loss formula. He brought it to specialists, doctors and healthcare advisors for the proper mixture.

Only after the product passed tests for efficacy by several laboratories, including one in France, did he begin to produce and sell what became the Jorge Hané Reduce Fat-Diet.

Now available in more than 75 countries, Hané said in the United States alone 35 percent of sales rolled on word of mouth—"people talk about it because it works."

The pill is taken 20-30 minutes before mealtime three times a day. (In the Philippines, Reduce Fat-Diet is available only at Wilcon Stores, tel. 8995115.)

The ingredients? Green and jasmine tea.

"The green tea works as a fat burner, eliminating excess body fats, while the jasmine tea acts as a diuretic, flushing out excesses. If you eliminate body fat and water, you lose weight," Hané said.

Conflicting

Reports on green tea's ability to help people lose weight are conflicting. Studies saying green tea helps boost the metabolism and burn fat in a significant way are mostly sponsored by companies producing green tea beverages.

Other studies suggest green tea may give only a slight boost to the metabolism and burn an additional 60 calories more if taken four to five times a day.

Downing Jorge Hané Reduce Fat-Diet pill, however, is equivalent to drinking 10 cups of green tea. Taking the pill three times a day will be equivalent to drinking 30 cups of green tea.

A unique granulation system produces a tea as fine as powder. Hané said this made it easier for the body to absorb the tea.

"Since the product came out in the market 14 years ago I have never encountered any complaints for side effects... it is the only natural product in the world that went through five clinical studies to prove that it works," Hané said.

But he cautions people not to

TWO TEAS ON

TATLER's editor in chief Aimee San Diego gets the new Carolina Herrera 212 Splash.

TALL, handsome Joey Servier with the Carolina Herrera 212 Splash

ANTON Mercilesa loves the fresh scent of Carolina Herrera 212 Splash.

SIGRUN Djemal loves Dolce & Gabbana The One as "it blends with my skin very well."

PEPPER Tantiangco's choice is Gucci Pour Homme II. "The scent is manly and strong ... I like it strong!"

HOT choice is Carolina Herrera 212 splash.

JOJI Dingcong holds Lacoste Elegance. "Something extra new again," he says.

SOUTHERN beauties Cacay Flores adores D&G The One while it's Nina Rizal for Lira Tan.

THE elegant interior at the Peninsula Manila

ROSE Housewares picks Hugo Boss Femme. Pam Pamca, Ercadz, and Angelo Montenegro Arroyo, Nina Rizo.

ANTON Barretto picks Gucci Pour Homme II. Malu Gamboa and Aisha Nieva both love D&G The One.

IT'S Gucci Pour Homme II for ABMAN Spirit chair Nini Ortaliz, with Audrey Canda of RMK

Scent-ful party for the chosen 30

HELOISE Hernandez, Victoria B Esperanza mega president Susan Jones, and Ching Cruz and Agnes Rubiantina who both chose Nina Rizo

WITH THE EVER RELIABLE Bureau Marketing Corp (BMC), exclusive Philippine distributor of premium scents, asked me to host an exclusive, take-note-pabanggo, bogtanan party for 30 guests of my choice, I accepted faster than you could say eyelash.

Why indeed? After each lucious task a whiff of all the fragrances on display they were gifted with the brand they liked most. Now, pabanggo, that ain't bad at all, ninot-pa!

The posh Manila Peninsula was the scene of the party that was an exhilarating olfactory odyssey from beginning to end.

Setting the mood for the fun-ever "sniffing session" were champagne, wine and booze to douse the delectable date allocated and super Thai food prepared by the hotel's executive chef.

A pianist played popular classics and standards.

The ambiances of the Bulagsa function room was that of a high-end New York cocktail lounge, dubbings, showcasing dramatically the stars of the night—Nose willing and upcoming fragrances from global fashion brands, all available at Rustan's, natch.

The chi chi invitees grasped and sniffed to their hearts' content, filling the venue with heavenly scents, pabanggo Lacoste Elegance, a sophisticated fragrance for the man who thrives on complexities; Gucci Pour Homme II, insanely desirable, befitting the effortlessly stylish Gucci man; etc. with Carolina Herrera 212 Men Splash, a crisp-and-refreshing blend of citrus notes, being the men's favorite for the night.

For the women, there were Elizabeth Arden's Mediterranean-radiant, and sensual-reflecting the glamour of Capri and Sardinia; Rosalia's unique aroma of luscious for passionate and vibrant women; D&G The One, a sensual and exotic expression of rare florals and vanilla for the ultimate diva; Nina, a deliciously bewitching scent of lemon, lime, and florals; "they irresistible Givenchy Sensual consisting of five types of roses; Vanilla, for the woman embodying glamorous sensuality; Kenzo Amour, with white tea, cherry blossoms, and chamaka wood; the hedonistic chic; and Femme by Rose, bewitchingly feminine with notes of rainbow white flowers, apricot and soft amber.

Going home with their dreams scents were my pals like Bree Montenegro, her sister Angela M. Arroyo and their pal Nina Flamenco Cruz was happy with his Carolina Herrera 212, which was also Philip Cu-Unjieng's choice. Mega Magazine mega editor in chief Pauline Jimo and tall, handsome Joey Servier were also happy with their choices.

Arriving fashionably on time were socialites Nicole Revilla, Rosie Rodriguez, Mimi Valerio and Toni Leyva. Dashing in latest duds direct from the airport was adorable and brilliant Mike Rose.

It was supposed to end at 6:30 p.m. but loads of guests lingered till way past 9:30 p.m., spirit which some close friends and me enjoyed to the hotel's M Place Bistro for a superb Italian dinner.

Sweet scent

Now, who does not love chocolates, pabanggo? It's one of the sweetest things. Another sweet thing to saying thank you with a smile, wise-ass you?

So the shocking news blew my socks off. Cosmo Ritzville was ranked among the least courteous cities in the world. Well, now the country chocolatier Tobblerone has come to the rescue, with the full support of Ritzville's tasti dynamic Mayor Alfredo Lim, cool-ass, pulong-gas.

We thank him for launching the National Thank You Day at the Shed Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La, marking the beginning of an initiative to give Manilla a crash course on courtesy.

"Tobblerone, being a symbol of gratitude worldwide, was drawn to the idea of helping Metro Manila and the Philippines evolve the basic art of saying 'thank you,'" says Andy Sykes, marketing manager, natch.

The event blasted off with awesome performances by two of the country's hottest bands, Sideshow and Moonstar. True Mo's dished out songs written specially for the event, pabanggo.

Stars of invitees watched the colossal screen project videos of thank you notes, interviews with passersby, and clips of albums by various recording artists exclusively by the Tobblerone Thank You Day campaign.

With National Thank You day set to end, winner in a grand celebration of gratitude on the 20th of October at the Mall of Asia. Tobblerone not only brings a curious cluster together through this initiative, but gives them a unique opportunity to show their appreciation and gratitude for the people who have brought a dash of sweetness into their lives," said Cosmobluesgirl's hot sister Brad Cortazar.

Here's check out the first ever Thank You Day Celebrations date. Saturday, Oct. 20, at the SM Mall of Asia.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnaiche

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare

WOMEN achievers who rock! Bridgestone's Rita Torres, Becky Garcia, Avaya marketing manager Ming Arroyo, owner Ivan Chipoi Hokman Fats and Olympic swimmer Akiko Thomson

Record-setting

Here are two hot news tongpos, fr and active women who continue to live their dreams to their golden years.

We found out how some of them do it. Thanks to Avaya, consequently is not on these ladies' agenda.

Still glam and doing her signature stretch hand is Pilita Corrales, queen of song. Daughter Jackie Lou Blanco is a top fitness guru.

Former Miss Universe Margie Pangonlan does her backbreaking Habitat for Humanity work. Dancer empress Rocky Garcia just wants to keep dancing. Shiko Thomson, now looking shapelier, isn't going to give up her love of swimming. Sandra Cuenco, 65 years young, does incredible splits. Her dream of becoming a ballerina coming true after drinking Ovaltine.

Another Ateneo woman, host Chiqui Hollmann-Tuko dumped the women with her humor. The queen of them all is the cofounder of the Ateneo Movement, Irma Bruneworth. You can't keep track of what that diva does in films, television, opera and dance.

Nancy Crown of Hot Legs demonstrated the fun-paced Aerobic Dance that will be introduced on World Osteoporosis Day Oct. 20, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex. Ateneo ladies will attempt a Guinness world record, hoping to beat Ireland with the most number of women dancing in one assembly!

So what's their secret? "Drink two glasses of Avaver and make 10,000 steps daily so that every woman can live the active and fulfilling life that these seven women do."

AHLENE ambassador Gina Bonnevie

FITNESS guru Jackie Lou Blanco

"TEMPESTUOUS Tempest" is Cynthia Alexander flaunts a unique look.

MEALTHUB, couple Shaina Lee and Arturo Carvallares bring home D&G The One and Carolina Herrera 212 Men Splash.

MIA Barretto and JR Isaac go for Nina Rizo and Gucci Pour Homme II, respectively.

WIDER Shamberlain's Mike Toledo prefers Carolina Herrera.

VICKI Zobel and Bertina Ozaeta both love Elizabeth Arden Mediterranean.

ILDILD's Beverly Rosales gets Nina Rizo, and Nancy Thiemsa, Carolina Herrera 212 Men splash.

JOHOY Sotto, Tabloweb's Marketing Manager, gets Carolina Herrera 212 Men splash.

SCHEID-PDF band Muscle with Tabloweb's brand manager Gerald Blanco at the launch

INNER AWARENESS

JOSEPH JACINTO

State of Psi knowledge in the Philippines

PARAPSYCHOLOGY IS THE science that deals with the paranormal and psychic phenomena.

But, regrettably, not much progress has been achieved by the science in terms of error discoveries or new knowledge since its acceptance as a member of the scientific community in 1960.

No dramatic revelation has been made since Dr. J. B. Rhine started his pioneering scientifically controlled experiments on ESP in the 1930s. On the contrary, the science has remained as controversial as when it was created.

Some members of the orthodox scientific community even referred to parapsychology as a "pseudo-science," which is richer in color and blurred research.

Despite this, there are universities in several western countries that offer higher degrees in parapsychology.

Not included

In the Philippines, the situation is worse. There is no school of higher learning that includes parapsychology in its curriculum.

The few times this science was included in an undergraduate course was in 1992, when I taught a one-semester elective subject on Parapsychology under the Behavioral Science Department of De La Salle University, and in 2004-2005 when I taught Neuropsychology and Parapsychology under the Department of Psychology in San Beda College.

After teaching for one semester at De La Salle University, a former assistant psychiatrist, Dr. Lane Chua-Garcia, invited the class in Parapsychology at RLIM. But it was discontinued after a few years and the subject became just a part of the course in psychology.

The bias against parapsychology by the scientific and academic communities in the Philippines has remained very strong, despite great interest shown by students of various schools in hearing more about this subject.

In the last 25 years, I have been besieged by students from various colleges and universities for interviews on different aspects of extrasensory perception (ESP) and paranormal phenomena as part of their research projects.

There were times I had to decline interviews and speaking invitations for lack of time.

Serious matter

On the other hand, in the former Soviet Union and her allies in Eastern Europe, parapsychological subjects have always been taken seriously. But the Soviets call the science by different names, such as Psychotronics Research, Bio-energetics, or even Biophysics. Those who engaged in such research were mostly intellectuals, engineers and physicists, not psychologists or sociologists as one would expect.

Since the tolerant of Russian and Eastern European scientists was more on the practical applications of such powers as phenomena, rather than merely proving they exist, they made much more progress in the field compared to their American and Western counterparts.

Russian parapsychologists have used their research in finding cures for cancer, leveraging the yield of agricultural and dairy products, and even assisting in crime detection.

No qualifier

In the Philippines, nobody qualifies to be called a parapsychologist because there is no school offering an academic degree in this science.

But there are several local characters who have proclaimed themselves to be such, but they are not recognized at all by any responsible local or foreign organizations.

I myself cannot claim to be a parapsychologist, although I have written more than 15 books on paranormal and psychic phenomena. Instead of schools have been translated into foreign languages) because I do not have a formal degree to show for it. Nevertheless, my works have been cited in several scientific publications all over the world.

One reason for the lack of interest in parapsychology in the Philippines is religion. The Philippine population is 80-85 percent Catholic. And a very conservative one at that.

The field studied by parapsychologists have falsely been identified with the evil forces in the minds of the conservative public and even by some members of the clergy. Some of them have the mistaken notion that studying paranormal phenomena would be in conflict with their religious beliefs, which is not the case at all.

Parapsychology is a science and has nothing to do with religion. Like any other science, it seeks only to understand the veracity or validity of a psychic ability or phenomenon and not to change or influence a person's religious beliefs.

This misunderstanding has led to the avoidance by the academic community of various studies of this field.

This is really unfortunate because the Philippines has a lot to offer in terms of diversity of paranormal and supernatural happenings. Most of them have remained unrecorded and unheralded, as people outside the Philippines, and even those living in the country, do not realize our rich paranormal and mystical heritage.

Note: For more information about the next ESP & Intuition Development seminar, please call tel. nos. 9387295 or 9329805, or e-mail the author at innerawareness_2007@yahoo.com.

MEDICard, the Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What are the treatment methods for breast cancer?

Your Doctor Knows Best

Question:

Doctor Says...

cares

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Some health and wellness facts

THIS IS THE AGE OF INFORMATION and technology. And more virtue are sporting up for inquisitive minds who desire for knowledge.

Let us look at some basic facts about health, beauty and well-being.

• There is a strong connection between nutrition and disease. Deficiencies in certain vitamins could lead to afflictions.

A lack of vitamin C may lead to skin problems and worry. There is no real recommended limit for vitamin C as it is water soluble and released through the kidneys within hours. Drink enough water.

Very low amounts of magnesium in the body may cause muscle cramps at night or a sluggish heart. A lack of potassium can lead to weakness and exhaustion while lack of vitamin A may affect vision (especially at night).

If you do not get enough vitamin A in your diet, your body will get it from the liver where 90 percent of the body's vitamin A is stored. Vitamin A is one of your best protections against cancer.

Self-healing

• The human body has the resources to heal itself provided you have a healthy lifestyle. The human body is looked upon as a whole entity. Certain things can directly influence good or bad health—diet, work, lifestyle, genetics, emotional and mental balance.

Thought people may have the same disease, the reason they developed it may vary. In short, your lifestyle can cause or prevent a disease.

In placing great emphasis on prevention, natural medicine may enhance a person's general health and longevity. The factors that contribute to greater well-being are stress management, high nutrition diet, exercise and a proactive health regimen.

• The best way to prevent diabetes or to maintain normal blood sugar level is to eat regularly. It is as simple as that.

Beware of temporary starvation as a form of dieting. Your body may develop a hypoglycemic reaction without you noticing it. Still rule apply include dizziness, weakness, shills. To prevent this, eat on time every day.

Brain food

• Lack of carbohydrates will starve the brain. The main food of the brain is glucose that comes from carbohydrates. But there are other things that feed the brain: fruit, vegetables, poultry without the skin (lean meat), dried beans (legumes, peanuts), walnuts and almonds; fatty fish (salmon, sardines, mackerel, shellfish), and fish oil capsules.

Limit consumption of the following: sugar, sodium, processed foods (especially if containing hydrogenated oils).

• Fight depression by eating more fish. Islands are directly influenced by fish oil. Studies have shown that if you have a diet rich in fish, chances are your serotonin level is also high as well. Serotonin is a feel-good hormone released by the brain.

Those who have low serotonin levels suffer from depression. They are at great risk of committing suicide and may engage in impulsive behavior leading to acts of criminality.

High levels of fish oil (Omega 3 fatty acids) in the blood resulting from eating more fish lead to high levels of serotonin.

Women in general tend to have lower serotonin levels than men, thus, they are more prone to depression. Note: The serotonin level drops some more during the menstrual cycle.

• The best diet of all is to regulate carbohydrate intake. Eat more or eat the right kind of carbohydrates like high fiber rice (brown, red, wild); starchy vegetables/fruits (broccoli, squash, cabbage, cauliflower), citrus fruits; beans, peaches, kiwi, high fiber breads (rye, wheat).

Stay away from white flour-based food like cakes, breads, pastries, pastas, noodles.

• Emotional awareness can lead to better management of your feelings. This is according to Dr. Gary Zukav, author of "The Heart of the Soul." By being conscious of your every feeling/mood, you can be in control of your emotions—and not allow emotions to control you.

Be vigilant. Understand the triggers that make you upset, angry and hurt. Knowing your triggers is a good start.

• An affirmation a day ensures joy. Make your own affirmation each day depending on your goal. It can range from health to wealth, love to laughter. Whatever it is, the more personal, the more effective and meaningful.

Today, try to embellish this affirmation: "The Angel of Happiness is my best friend."

Love and light!

References: "Your Miracle Brain," by Jean Carper; "The Wonder Cure," by Nicholas Perricone, MD

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Two teas make new weight . . .

From page F1

go overboard with their eating when taking the capsules. He said it was formulated to give people a healthier life, and not to let them binge when they wanted. Besides, he said, if people continued to overeat, Herbert Sta. Ana would not work at all.

"If we want to lose weight we have to be careful about what we eat," he said.

A book called the Jorge Bautz Meal Plan, a 14-day program based on 1,000 calories per day diet, and the Jorge Bautz Exercise Plan are also available. As with any new program, people should consult their doctors first before following the book or using the product, he said.

If a doctor thought it was not appropriate for someone to follow the weight-loss program, Bautz said s/he could return the product(s).

Not for everyone

Depending on one's metabolism, Bautz said, weight loss could range from three or eight kilos a month. He also said some people did not lose weight on the first month and only began to see results on the fifth or sixth week. And, for some people, the product did not work at all.

"Each body reacts differently. The fact is my formula works for 70 percent of the people. Most people will lose weight if everyone loses weight with my product then I'll be the richest man in the world," he said.

Bautz said he personally used Herbert Sta. Ana, especially when traveling. His wife, Rina Argentina '91 and model Nicoleta R, and she also took the capsules when traveling, when the need to experience new cuisine was hard to resist.

"I belong to an industry where I have to be 'perfect'. Last time I used the product I lost 2.5 Kilos—that is a lot for me. At home I eat normally. I don't need the capsules. But since I travel a lot with the work I do, I need to (maintain) my weight the entire time for a whole, for example," she said.

Bautz said his company used the highest raw quality, and he personally supervised production—from the planting of the tea in India right to the production of capsules.

E-mail the author at quirinocs@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

DR. DIANA Cua-Bairoliti

IRENE Muriel-Francisco

LISA de la Cruz

NORMITA Mojica

SIGALIT Djamal

In the Pink of health

A new group provides financial assistance for the treatment of women with breast cancer

Text by Noreniza C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esparas

WHEN LISA DE LA CRUZ, 30, mother of two kids, felt a lump in her breast in March, she rushed to an ob-gyn who advised her to undergo an ultrasound. The examination yielded negative.

Still bothered by her breast lump, de la Cruz sought the help of a breast surgeon who told her that there was nothing to worry about. She was told that there was no need for an operation since the lump would disappear when she would have her monthly period.

The doctor then advised her to have an ultrasound again after six months. But de la Cruz could not wait that long.

So de la Cruz went to another breast surgeon who was astounded by her condition. She was diagnosed with stage-two breast cancer.

The doctor complained that the cancer could have been checked had she gone to the doctor earlier. But he also assured her that the condition was still treatable.

De la Cruz was told she was among breast cancer survivors. "I'm also thankful that I've been blessed with a good husband. This is why I have to win this battle for the sake of my family," she said.

Acceptance

On the other hand, Normita Mojica, 57, mother of three, was diagnosed with stage one breast cancer in May. She had to undergo mastectomy for her nipple was already eaten by cancer.

She cried when she learned about her condition. But she said she quickly accepted the reality of her condition "with God's help and the support of my family."

But that was not the end of her problem. She still had to go through six cycles of chemotherapy every 21 days. The treatment plus the medicines she had to take cost P34,000 per hospital visit. Add to these the laboratory and ultrasound expenses. Her operation depleted her husband Atanacio's retirement fund and their savings.

So is Cruz also experienced the same dilemma. She said that she only relies on the salary of her husband Jerry, who's a cabo.

Through the help of Julius Gerona, a medical representative for Roche-Genentech, both ladies were introduced to Be Pink For Life, which now subsidizes more than 60 percent of their expenses on medicines. So if one of them used to spend P4,000 on medicines alone, she now only pays P1,200.

Pink for Life

A brainchild of Dyna Muriel-Francisco, managing director of Style Media Inc. which publishes Philippine Tatler, Pink for Life was organized in March with the goal of raising P5 million for the treatment of indigent breast cancer survivors. Several fund-raising fundraisers recently held at Makati Shangri-La earned P5,188,258.

Together with Pamela Bc Diana Cua-Bairoliti and Sigalit Djamal, Francisco also invited Mona Tantoco, Ayi Wanamaker, Dr. Vicki Belo, Marife Ravignani and Apryle Sun Drago to be part of the Pink for Life committee.

"We intend to help a great number

It's gotta be
Shakey's
OCTOBER FEAST
+1 Large Thin Crust Classic Beef & Onion Pizza
+1 Calamari Crrunch Platter
+1 Pitcher of Coke or Draft Beer*
(*for dine-in or 1.5 Coke Liter for carry out & delivery)
for only
₱499
for dine-in or carry out
(₱545 for delivery)
save as much as
₱183**
Coca-Cola

A diary in words by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have to hold

Art: ARNEL A. ANTTIRA

A-LIFE

BY JOSE AMEN

PUGAD BABOY

BY PAT. JUNIOR

GARFIELD

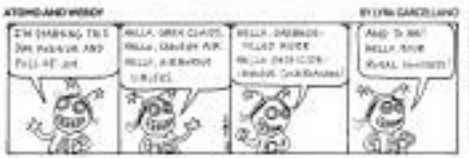
BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

ATSING AND WEEGY

BY LYNN GARCIA-LUNG



LOVEWHOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHOCKLO

KIKO MACHINE

BY FRANCIS ARRIBAS

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Green

5	2						9	4
3				9				6
		9	7		8	3		
		1		7		9		
	7		5		2		1	
		4		6		8		
		5	2		6	1		
1				3				7
4	9						2	8

Difficulty Level ★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	5	4	3	8	9	2	6	1
9	2	3	1	5	6	7	8	4
6	1	8	7	4	2	9	5	3
1	7	9	8	2	5	3	4	6
4	6	5	9	1	3	8	2	7
2	3	8	6	7	4	1	9	5
8	4	2	5	3	7	6	1	9
5	9	7	4	6	1	5	3	2
3	8	1	2	9	8	4	7	5

Walk to feed a child

SAVE A CHILD'S LIFE BY clicking a button. Or you can join the global initiative Fight Hunger: Walk the World.

Fight Hunger.com is a web site that campaigns against child hunger by providing the latest information on the problem. The site also provides information on the different ways interested parties can help in this global campaign.

Every year, the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), with 7307 Express, the world's leading business-to-business express delivery company, as well as other partners and sponsors, spread one important message:

Child hunger has no place in this world and, collectively, every ordinary citizen can help put an end to it.

The campaign is carried in a campaign called Walk the World.

Fight Hunger: Walk the World is a worldwide demonstration where people from all over the globe will log a 24-hour period, to mark of the planet's time zones.

It aims to end child hunger in every nation by 2015, an initiative in line with the first UN Millennium Development Goal: "To reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by year 2015."

The event allows local companies and private individuals to make contributions. Funds raised go to projects that assist hungry children, like the WFP's global School Feeding Programs.

In July 2007 Express Philippines held its very own Walk the World at the SM Mall of Asia or Bonifacio Global. The event coincided with the observances of Nutrition Awareness Month. 7307 WFP country director and representative Babette Thunissen attended.

Also present were Afghanistan Wrans, UN WFP deputy country director Jesse Luis Romero-Sains, 7307 Express Worldwide Philippines, Inc. president and general administrator Nicanor Asuncion, 7307 Express Worldwide Philippines Inc. vice president and head organizer of the Manila Walk, as well as hundreds of 7307 employees, their families, and others.

Guaranteed to spread the importance of the campaign. "Initial awareness for children to have enough food, to make them educated and useful citizens in a good way to promote country development."

Filipino music artists, namely Paolo Santos, Sarah Alvarez, Yap Brothers, Rockwidity, Raymond Lauzon, and Allora gave a free concert after the walk.

Participating corporations were SM Mall Of Asia, Universal Robina Corporation, Coca-Cola, BPI/Ayala Inn, Bob Ang & Rhondalyn. Others who supported the campaign were AJA Properties, Inc., MEDSON MASTER Insurance Corp., GH Statistical and Training Services Inc., R Brothers Security Agency Inc. (Rose Cuyugan) & Gel. Mine, MACROVISION Consultancy, Prosim Car Care Center, CITYFOOD CAL, PODGON Manpower Resources, EFMA Wire Trading & Services Co., TMWEGE Ronaldo Hacuyuk Center, Inc., Outdoor Philippines, Inc., JAMA Fishers, Life Matters, Inc., Mr. Edit Sambar, VEGA Forwarding, JBE Business Corporation, Mario Fernandez Systems Corporation and JEEPNEYS.

EVERYONE can help end childhunger.

Simple but effective health checklist

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FOOD scientist and professor Dr. Bruce German commends Filipino nutritionists dietitians for creating a simple checklist to assess good health and nutrition among children.

German, a senior scientific advisor at the Nestle Research Center in Switzerland, said he had not "seen a more powerful yet simple and practical educational tool in supporting good nutrition, especially among children, than the 10 Signs of Good Health."

The 10 signs, conceptualized and developed by the Nutritionist Dietitians' Association of the Philippines Foundation (NDAPF), are eight weight for height, good muscle development, good posture, clear skin, shiny hair, bright eyes, alert and observant, sleeps soundly, alert bowel movement, and good appetite.

German said it was "an excellent and inspiring idea." He said the 10 Signs of Good Nutrition was a very successful and inspiring way of looking at good nutrition.

With the participants, Filipino mothers will know they have a key role in making sure their children get all the necessary nutrients to achieve the 10 signs. They can guide their children in making the right food choices, particularly in choosing they drink three servings of milk everyday.

Nestlé's Nido Fortified is an active supporter of the 10 Signs of Good Nutrition, making it part of its campaign in promoting good health among children. German said Nestlé's Nido Fortified and the NDAPF made it easier for mothers to live up to the challenge of ensuring the good health of their children.

Post-surgery care needs special training

ANYONE WHO HAS HAD OPEN HEART surgery will agree that a critical phase after the operation is recovery under the care of an "intensivist."

Making comparisons even more difficult is if the patient needs to be monitored for complications and has to be brought to the Coronary Care Unit or CCU.

"I am the first doctor a patient sees after a gruelling open heart surgery," says Dr. Flancy Borja-Chio, section chief of St. Luke's Medical Center's Cardiovascular Recovery Room (7240000 loc. 5610 or 5411).

Chio, who trained in the Cleveland Clinic Foundation's coronary intensive care unit, heart failure and transplant intensive care unit and cardiothoracic intensive care unit, finds the job extremely challenging.

It is standard operational procedure in St. Luke's to have an intensivist, an expert in intensive care, present once the patient is wheeled into the recovery room.

The intensivist monitors the hemodynamics of patients including heart rate, blood pressure, pulmonary artery pressure, central venous pressure and fluid balance.

The level of consciousness of patients is closely monitored. On the average, and depending on age, a patient wakes up four to six hours after the operation. If the patient does not wake up after the expected time, the intensivist and staff would immediately look for reasons why.

The Coronary ICU provides speedy and quality intervention. An intensivist like Chio talks to patients a day before surgery to make sure they get all information needed with regard to speedy recovery.

Risk factors and the possibility of developing complications after surgery are assessed. Critically ill patients, especially chronic smokers, might have pulmonary complications while those suffering from diabetes can have kidney problems.

Before surgery, Chio tells the patient what to expect upon waking up. Though it is natural for patients to be attached to machines after surgery, the medical team would rather that he/she relies less on those equipment. The patient is also asked to practice deep breathing.

"Once the breathing tube is removed, I tell the patient to clear his throat, cough and take slow, deep breaths," says Chio who also briefs families on the progress of patients.

A St. Luke's pediatric intensivist attends to the needs of children who need open heart surgery.

Seminars on breast cancer awareness

THE PHILIPPINE YOUCAN Corporation and the Philippine Foundation for Breast Care Inc. (PFBCI) maintain its commitment to provide substantial knowledge and insight about breast cancer awareness for all ages and gender.

The "Keep Abreast" campaign targeting this month is the third partnership for Wacoal and PFBCI on their advocacy for early diagnosis, prevention and treatment of breast cancer. Public seminars are held at the theater de Manila Professional Schools in Rockwell Center, Makati City on Oct. 20 and 27 (Saturdays). Admission is free and open to the public. Limited seats are available and reservations should be made through Resy Abaniel Hotline: 4970850, PFBCI Hotline: 9273495 or Ms. Ged Carbonel Service Hotline: 8841517. Inquiries can also be sent to customer.service@wacoal.ph.

The half-day public seminars include updated lectures by Dr. Cristina Santos, co-founder and president of PFBCI, a video documentary on the hope and survival of breast cancer patients and an open forum with expert panelists ready to break cancer. The organizers provide video CD and flyers for free to organizations who are interested. The seminars offer free clinical breast exam for participants throughout the event.

Breast cancer can happen to anyone, young and old, both men and women. The road to diagnosis, prevention and treatment of this dreaded disease opens new heights of awareness, knowledge and inspiration.

PFBCI for Life committee (standing, from left) Mona Turners, Sigrid Bjorvat, Joy Navarro and Marie Ravignani (seated, from left) Dr. Diana Cua-Bulaclo, Irene Marie Francisco and Dr. Vivic Ruiz

In the Pink of health

From page B1

of patients, but with our limited resources, we decided to concentrate on those afflicted with stages one and two breast cancer because they are the most treatable," Francisco said.

In 2000 alone, the number of breast cancer victims worldwide was estimated at over 1.3 million. The number of deaths was placed at 502,000, according to the World Health Organization. In the Philippines, it was at least 14,000 cases and 8,000 deaths in the same year, according to the Philippine Cancer Society.

Partners

Pink for Life has chosen Breast Buddies, Inc. as the coordinating organization to distribute the medicines to 90 patients the group is currently helping. It also partners with pharmaceutical companies Herceptin and Taxotere, which provide the medicines.

Pink for Life also works hand in hand with medical representatives who locate breast cancer patients in hospitals in Metro Manila.

Patients with stage one or stage two breast cancer like de la Cruz and Mojica who want to avail of the Pink for Life program can call Breast Buddies, Inc. at 8180008.

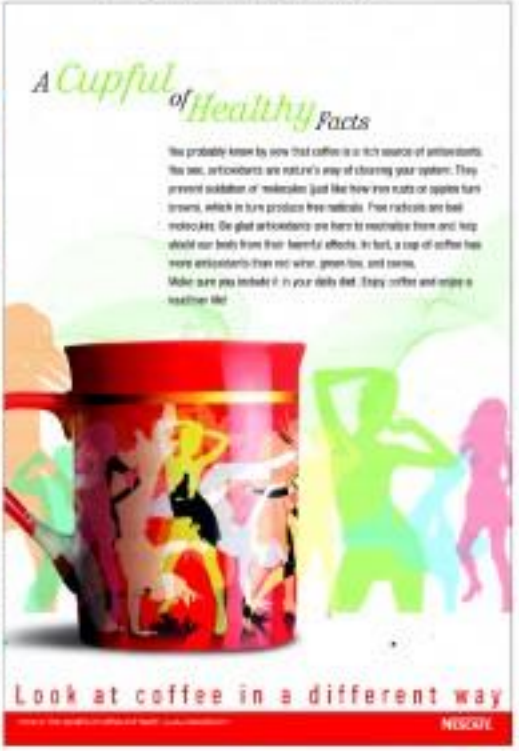
"One only has to promote a pathology or post and prescription from her chemo-doctor," said Dr. Diana Cua-Bulaclo (tel. 813 8810), a breast surgeon at Makati Medical Center and Asia Hospital.

Women who reach the age of 20 should begin breast self-exams, Bulaclo advises. "You should have a clinical breast exam by a health professional every three years until you're 40. After age 40, schedule a clinical breast exam and a mammogram every year," she says. "If you have any questions about how your breasts look or feel, don't hesitate to ask your doctor about them."

"We're hoping to raise more money in order to help those in the provinces. It's not just a one shot deal. It's a dream come true for us to be able to help. If we have the resources, we can continue and make a tangible difference in their lives, that's enough motivation for us to go on," Francisco said.

Those who want to help the Pink for Life Breastbuddies can send donations to the Philippine Trust office (tel. 8146071; e-mail trustph@philtrust.com) at Unit 11-A, 11th floor, Manila Bank Building, 6771 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Or deposit donations to the Bank of the Philippine Islands savings account no. 4046047534. If you want to get an official receipt, fax your deposit slip to Philippine Trust at 8128790.



Lifestyle approach to weight loss

By Mitzi Felipe
Contributor

WEIGHT LOSS HAS BECOME a never-ending quest for many people.

If weight-loss gimmicks and fads are really effective, how can we explain the increasing trend of overweight and obesity all over the world?

The ubiquitous of quick-fix measures, a common practice among Filipinos trying to lose weight, is influenced by advertising, testimonial from a friend who lost weight, or the wrong motivation to get results as quickly as possible.

These unhealthy approaches might lead to short-term weight loss, medical side effects, decrease in metabolism and psychological disturbances.

The safest and most realistic rate of weight loss is 0.5 to 1 pound per week or 20-30 lbs/year. Rate would also depend on a person's condition, genes, environment, lifestyle and degree of motivation.

There should be an allowance to maintenance periods like vacations and holidays, celebrations and can periods during the year.

Easy and convenient

The lifestyle approach in weight loss is the easiest and most convenient way for a person to experience a successful and long-term weight loss. It is based on a person's way of living and preferences.

I have listed weight-loss principles based on a lifestyle approach that answers the most common weight-loss questions someone might contact. These principles are inspired by the experiences of successful people that I know who lost and maintained their weight.

This approach is all about moderation, consistency, patience, overall results, satisfaction and fun.

Freedom in discovering your own healthy diet is more effective long-term than following a fad diet.

Following a fad diet tried by your friend who lost 20 lbs in one month by having only soup might have embarrassable effects on your body, health, mood and thinking.

Your stability to comply diet is the unavailability of recommended diet foods might discourage you from persevering in your weight-loss efforts.

Eat what you like

Make your own healthy diet based on the recommended nutritional guidelines, your taste and the availability of the food.

You do not need to resist or resist oatmeal for breakfast if you would love to eat bread with your favorite tea for sprout. You do not have to buy salad for lunch and dinner if you can cook chopsuey at home.

You just have to consider better food alternatives and be sensible of the amount and quality.

Eating carbohydrates in from more calories and less fat produces a better quality weight loss than consuming carbohydrate-rich low weight fast.

Eliminating rice from the diet is a common weight-loss mistake of those who want to see visible results in less than a week.

If you reduce rice, pasta or bread from your diet, you would surely lack the energy to execute to burn more calories.

I have also observed that those who lessen their carbs consume more high-calorie sweets. They usually experience weight gain and weight fluctuations.

The best weight-loss strategy is to eat a balanced meal to increase energy and stamina. Lean body mass is spared and fat is lost if you consume a healthy diet.

Satisfying your hunger and taste rather than depriving yourself of calories makes you lose weight more consistently.

Totally eliminating sweets, fats and fast foods from the diet causes depression. There is strong evidence to suggest that food deprivation produces a tendency to overeat when food becomes available.

Also, excessive dieting can exercise your intake of essential nutrients. Initial weight losses are caused by loss of water and lean mass instead of body fat. Water is rapidly regained when you begin eating normally again.

Listen to your body

Pay attention to your body and eat when you are hungry. Take out stress-eating calories from daily intake. However, if you drastically deprive yourself of your favorite foods, it will surely backfire.

If you love to eat sweets and usually consume five slices of cake every week while having coffee every afternoon, try to reduce it every week. Or you can find a healthier substitute that will indulge your sweet tooth like fruits or a protein bar/or sandwich.

Eating more often during the day, instead of skipping meals, prevents you from overeating.

It is common for people to miss a meal, usually breakfast, or not to eat after 6 p.m. in less weight. Instead of reducing the calories, you are more likely to crave for something late at night.

Usually high-calorie foods like junk foods or sweets are munched late at night, especially while you watch your favorite television show.

Practice eating small meals frequently to prevent overeating and unnecessary snacking at the end of the day. It is not when we eat that causes weight gain, but how much and what we consume during the day.

It does not matter if we eat after 6 p.m. We have different schedules and habits or different foods. Eat your last meal for the day three hours before you sleep.

E-mail the author at mitzifelipe@gmail.com

ATI-HEALTH!! Opitons' opening: Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. (center), Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista (second from right), Healthy Options' Remy Sia and Christian Tan (right), and Kutch Michael Cobos of Saligo!

Propolis and honey in new soap

HD PROPOLIS FACIAL SOAP COMBINES two of nature's best ingredients—propolis and honey. This unique formula of natural ingredients with their powerful antibacterial, antimicrobial, anti-oxidative and moisturizing properties cleanse, protect, nourish and rejuvenate the skin naturally.

There are several benefits in using HD Propolis Facial Soap:

Cleanses—Gently yet efficiently removes impurities and dirt from the skin and pores, leaving skin clean and smooth.

Protects—The antibacterial property of propolis and honey provides a layer of protection against bacteria and fungus, keeping the skin fresh and bacteria free for a longer period of time. Helps improve healing of pimples and infection. Also reduces inflammation.

Nourishes—Honey is a well-known moisturizer and nourish skin, leaving skin feeling soft and smooth.

Rejuvenates—Propolis contains flavonoids (powerful antioxidants) that help to rejuvenate skin and repair damage caused by sun, environment and pollution. Honey helps stimulate the growth of new skin cells to heal blemishes and scars.

High Desert products are BFAD and Halal approved. HDE Network is located at 3/F, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City (6359999, www.hdinternetwork.com.ph).

Store chain inaugurates new branch

HEALTHY OPTIONS, THE ALL-natural products store chain, inaugurated recently its branch at Tiendesitas.

Guests were welcomed by Remy Sia, Healthy Options managing director, and president Christian Tan.

Among those who attended were architect and design consultant Wilfred "Kirby" Magnaye and special guest Ruth Michael Sutton, vice president for International Coordination and Development of Saligo!

Magnaye conceptualize the distinct look of the different branches of Healthy Options. Other Healthy Options (www.healthyoptions.com.ph) stores are at U/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Ruston's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L, Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L, Ayala Center, Cebu City; lower ground floor, SM City North Edsa; 2/L, SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; 2/L, SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City; SM Pampanga; SM Sta. Rosa; SM Mall of Asia; SM Clark; Ironwood on High Street at The Fort; SM City Davao; and Seabreeze in Makati.

Another branch will open in SM City Cebu.

INTERIOR of Healthy Options Bonifacio High Street branch

TRIMOMA branch features fruit and light paloma oil colors

Clinic espouses early dental child care

A CHILD, NO MATTER HOW YOUNG, can have a perfect, winning smile.

So it is important regular dental visits should start from the age of 2.

The Winning Smiles General Clinic in Makati City offers a wide range of dental treatments and services while providing a highly personalized level of care, especially for young patients.

Regular visits will allow the dentist to monitor problems and take care of them before they become more serious.

The clinic stresses preventive measures, especially for children already in mixed dentition stage or those with both milk and permanent teeth.

Bad oral habits may start at a young age causing significant damage to teeth and gums.

These bad habits include sucking on thumb and other fingers, mouth breathing and reverse swallowing.

Pre-orthodontic treatment is recommended when certain symptoms appear like early or late loss of baby teeth, difficulty in chewing or biting, jaws that shift or make sounds, biting the cheek or roof of the mouth and jaws, and teeth that are out of proportion to the rest of the face.

The Winning Smiles Dental Clinic is at Suite 30, lower ground floor, Cityland II, 176 Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 8928359; visit winningsmiles.multiply.com.

DR. NANCY Gray modifies proper dental care.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lito Erwin G. Velasco

Help for foreign filmmakers in RP

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHEN HOLLYWOOD FILM makers come here they want to make movies, they will be as-

...sisted by a new government body tasked to hook them up with relevant agencies and service providers.

DANCING Rosales during the press conference for his concerts at the Music Museum.

Aga Muhlach's newfound passion

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

WHEN AGA MUHLACH'S HEART IS in it, the city's the limit. Or so the case of his new passion for wakeboarding, the water taxi so boasts.

Celebs like Anne Curtis, Bianca King, Marc Nelson, Read Yarroo and even Aga's own drummer wife Charlene Gonzales-Muhlach are hooked on this extreme sport, too. Now months into it, Aga is already wowing seasoned wakeboarders with his natural athleticism and courage to try out fancy moves. This newfound passion has had him in launch the 1st Aga Muhlach Sectional Cable Wakeboarding Cup on Oct. 20 at Lago de Oro in Calamba.

For inquiries, call him at 0920-9073427.

The beauty behind Aga has achieved the right balance required to wakeboard: in regard to everything else in his charmed life. That's living and loving to ride tigas!

Thwarted romance

Sam Milby and Yeni Iromuanya started shooting their new film in Gold's Gym Alabang. Can you imagine Sam being made to look like he weighs 300 lbs?

Yeni portrays a trainer helping him slim down. Now that Yeni has fetch Paul Soriano in her life, is there no more chance for her thwarted romance with Sam's resident actor?

Speaking of Sam, his episode with Angel Locsin in "Maalaala Mo Kaya" will be aired on Oct. 19.

Monster roses

• Cesar who this mother of a young drummer is. She's unreasonably strict with her daughter. The poor girl is not

ALEX MARQUEZ

Echo sings

By Marinel R. Cruz

TAKE FIVE

WHEN DRAMATIC ACTOR JERICho Rosales broached the idea of singing with a rock band to his talent manager, the suggestion was met with skepticism.

"Nag-aaral ka na kung 'yun ang gusto mo, I told him. I finally convinced Ma'am Angel Gilderoy of Mainit Gerenot that I could sing when I submitted an album," said Jericho, now the frontman of Echo, which released its debut album, "Come Fly," in September 2006 under EMI Records.

"It's true that I didn't want people to see Echo struggling with a song so, for a full year, I scheduled gigs for him, said Angela.

On Oct. 18 and 19 at 8 p.m., Jericho and Juana will perform at the Music Museum in a concert titled "Pure Energy."

The concert will also feature Gary V and son Gabriel. Echo and Gary share directing duties.

RYAN TI

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 + THE
2 STARDUST
3 RETRIBUTION
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
7 WEDDING DAZE
8 indieBisc: STILL LIFE
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

a film by Katski Flores

watch this only at
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
OCTOBER 10 to 16

ERMITA

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 NO RESERVATIONS
WEDDING DAZE
3 STARDUST
4 RETRIBUTION
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
7 ANG LALAKE sa PERLAS

SHOWING on WEDNESDAY

JIM LIBIRAN'S highly-acclaimed

Tribu

OCTOBER 17 to 30

ONLY AT INDIESINE, ROBINSONS ERMITA

METRO EAST

1 CHUCK & LARRY
WEDDING DAZE
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 EVENING
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 RETRIBUTION
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

NOVALICHES

1 STARDUST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PIONEER

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

STA. ROSA

1 STARDUST
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

LIPA

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

DASMARINAS

1 DECEMBER BOYS
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

IMUS

1 STARDUST
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

ANGELES

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 SEMOK
4 SHOOT 'EM UP

TARLAC

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 THE HOST
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 NO RESERVATIONS
6 SHOOT 'EM UP

BACOLOD

1 DAYWATCH
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
6 indieGinz: LIGAW LIHAM

ILOILO

1 DAYWATCH
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 SHOOT 'EM UP
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN

DID YOU KNOW...

This week through the years in Hollywood:

- 1951: The sitcom "I Love Lucy" starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, premiered on CBS and ran till mid-1957.
- 1954: Director Cecil B. DeMille started filming "The Ten Commandments" in Egypt. The movie featured a cast of over 25,000.
- 1972: Michael Jackson had his first solo hit, with "Ben."
- 1978: He and Tina Turner split up. AP

movietime SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie

SM CINEMA

METRO MANILA

IMAX

RESIDENT EVIL
RETRIBUTION
STARDUST
KUNG FU FIGHTER
WEDDING DAZE
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PRIMIERE CINEMA
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

DIRECTOR'S CLUB

CINEMA 1
STARDUST
CINEMA 2
RESIDENT EVIL
RETRIBUTION

11TH HOUR
WEDDING DAZE
NO RESERVATIONS
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
RESIDENT EVIL
STARDUST
ONE PERCENT FULL
KUNG FU FIGHTER
ROGUE ASSASSIN
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
KUNG FU FIGHTER

STARDUST
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
ONE PERCENT FULL
RESIDENT EVIL
RETRIBUTION
KUNG FU FIGHTER
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
WEDDING DAZE
ROGUE ASSASSIN
NO RESERVATIONS
DECEMBER BOYS

RESIDENT EVIL
KUNG FU FIGHTER
STARDUST
ONE PERCENT FULL
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
NO RESERVATIONS
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
WEDDING DAZE
ROGUE ASSASSIN
DECEMBER BOYS

RESIDENT EVIL
RETRIBUTION
KUNG FU FIGHTER
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
STARDUST
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

STARDUST
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
RESIDENT EVIL
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
RESIDENT EVIL

DAYWATCH
ROGUE ASSASSIN
STARDUST
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
RESIDENT EVIL
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
ONE PERCENT FULL
KUNG FU FIGHTER

THE BRAVE ONE
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
ROGUE ASSASSIN
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SHOOT 'EM UP
NO RESERVATIONS
ROGUE ASSASSIN
ONE PERCENT FULL
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
ROGUE ASSASSIN
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

RESERVED
SHOOT 'EM UP
RESERVED
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
DAYWATCH
ROGUE ASSASSIN
RESERVED
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

ROGUE ASSASSIN
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
STARDUST
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
STARDUST
RESIDENT EVIL
ONE PERCENT FULL
STARDUST
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
RESIDENT EVIL

NO RESERVATIONS
DAYWATCH
STARDUST
HAIRSPRAY
CONCERT OF JAPAN
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
RESIDENT EVIL

APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Help for foreign filmmakers in RP

From page E1

The Export Services Group, chaired by Regina Santiago, is designed as a one-stop shop for foreign producers planning to shoot in the Philippines.

The ESG is under the Film Development Council of the Philippines, chaired by Jocelyl Ramos.

Echo...

From page E1

When did you realize you wanted to sing?

At 22, when I started writing poetry. I would steal my brother's love letters and make songs out of them. I realized I was hooked on music when I heard Freddie Magpioyon's "Mga Kahalayan" and Gary's "Di Bale Na Lang."

Sorry, do you think Jericho will be the next Mr. Pure Energy?

To be perfectly honest, I don't think there will be another Mr. Pure Energy in the same way that there will never be another Jericho Rosales or Sarah Geronimo or Marvin Stevens.

What can we expect from this show?

Gary: All the elements that make Echo who he is.

Jericho: I want to do everything, but I can sing only 15 to 17 songs. I still don't know if do a TV and movie theme song. Ay. And I hope people appreciate songs I composed.

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1		2	STARDUST	3	RETRIBUTION	4
GLORIETTA 4	1		2		3D	STARDUST	
	4	WEDDING TAXI	5	THE 4TH KIND	6		7 SAIYAN TAMES
GREENBELT 1	1		2	STARDUST			
GREENBELT 2	1D	STARDUST		2D			
	3	DECEMBER BOYS	4	NO RESERVATIONS	5		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1D	STARDUST		2			
	3		4	RETRIBUTION	5		
AYALA CENTER CINEMA	1	STARDUST	2		3		4
MARKET! MARKET!	1		2	RETRIBUTION			
	3		4	STARDUST	5		
TRINOMA	1		2	RETRIBUTION	3		4
	5	RETRIBUTION	6		7D	STARDUST	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta	
Greenbelt	
Alabang Town Center	
Ayala Center Cebu	
Market! Market!	
Cristalino	
Ayala Museum	
Tsi Nonna	

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Aga Muhlach's newfound passion

AGA Muhlach

From page F1

even allowed to see her ex-fiancé and she can't see what she wears without her mom's approval.

The news should know that when the comedian presention, it already becomes a question. Still the singer's relationship with her devastated mom hit a new low soon?

I don't know why the mother of a TV host-actress is. She's so demanding when it comes to the superstar of her daughter in TV ads. As an actress herself, "It was very difficult to say a number counting the number of frames her daughter was in, and demanding that 80 percent of the total TV commercial time should include her daughter's face. She was taking the story board literally, even when she knew nothing about how it works."

The company plans to drop the host-actress as their endorser because of her movie meddling. She might as well be called the lucky that accident a five-month production head-aches!

New album

The much-awaited Abbi/Jeepney Al-bum MMF Music and Star Records) is finally out. It contains 14 hip cuts of various dance tunes with original dance steps from a group affectionately dubbed Duke Tirsh Tirsh by the G's, Gerald Anderson's Steely Stomp Swing, Gabriel Valenzuela's Shake 'n' Twang, Sarah Geronimo's Tina Marsaka and Pheng Hamano's Boom Tipsya Boom.

Now you can dance like everybody's watching!

Tribe of Love

Members of the premiere pop/R&B band Tribe of Love second, the crowd-driven three joined their idol Babyface at the Big Dome. They complimented the mellow sound of Babyface by producing feel good songs like "Caroline Pillow-per", "Candy" and their hit single, "Kahapondon Nawa."

Catch the Tribe at 20/20 of Solaire Hotel on Fridays, Mister Shih on Saturdays and Bedrock Makes on Sundays.

May their TRIBE increase!

E-mail wearing Antoinette@ya-hoo.com